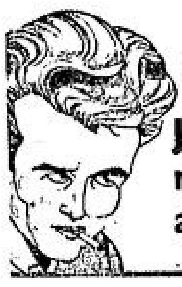

Sat Special / A2-1
James Dean attracts new fans 50 years after death

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Senate summons Bong Pineda, if he can be found

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Williams ends Sharapova's Wimbledon reign

■ Metro / A19
Prosecutor throws out sex complaint against Willie Revillame

■ Super! / E1
Beauty, no beasts here: Sharon, KC and Frankie

No more 'telebabad;' GMA changes cell phone habits

WALKIE-TALKIE NA LANG!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

WITH THE wiretapping controversy and the "Hello, Garci" ring tone fad, can President Macapagal-Arroyo be blamed for

NO MORE/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Peso rebounds to 55 to $1; stock market still uneasy

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday bounced back to the 55:$1 levels as jitters at the foreign exchange market eased after the tape at the center of the scandal storming the Arroyo administration was finally played during a congressional hearing Thursday night.

PESO/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, July 2, 2005 ★★ 62 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 204 P18
website: www.inq7.net

SC stops E-VAT collection

Prices of oil, other goods, services have to be rolled back

By Armand Nocum and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SUPREME Court yesterday suspended the implementation of the expanded value-added tax that is the centerpiece of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic reform agenda, as she faces pressure to resign over allegations of election cheating.

Opposition congressmen asked the tribunal on Monday to block the implementation of the expanded tax, called E-VAT, which came into effect briefly on Friday.

The high court justices, voting 13 to 2 in a special en banc session, gave Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, revenue commissioner Guillermo Parayno and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita 10 days to answer the petition seeking to nullify the law and set July 26 for the first hearing.

The controversial E-VAT Law, or Republic Act 9337, was signed into law last May after a bruising battle between Ms Arroyo and opposition legislators who warned of its effect on prices but the government warned that failure to pass it would have worse consequences.

Lawyer Ishmael Khan, head of the high court's public information office, said it was implicit in the TRO that "all government officials concerned in the implementation of the law should recall all the orders regulating the implementation of the law."

Khan said, for example, that the Bureau of Internal Revenue should "recall its order implementing the E-VAT law in obedience to the SC TRO."

"Gas stations that have already increased the prices of fuel products will have to roll back their prices, and toll stations should return back to their old fees," he said.

Oil companies, which had immediately moved to raise petroleum prices after midnight on Thursday, yesterday said they would roll back prices to pre-July 1 levels.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justice Reynato Puno voted against issuing the TRO, maintaining that the collection of taxes cannot be enjoined, being the lifeblood of the nation."

SC STOPS/ A4

A SHOW of force of anti-Arroyo groups on Ayala Avenue in Makati Friday is still a fraction of the People Power that swamped Edsa I and II but it is the biggest gathering yet to demand the resignation of President Arroyo, snarling traffic for hours. The oppositionists vow to hold daily rallies.

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Biggest anti-GMA rally yet lacks Edsa numbers

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

CLASHING in their ideals but united by one goal, opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo brought their protests for the second day running right into the bastion of her business support in a bid to force her to resign.

Estimated by police to number between 5,000 and 10,000, protesters representing rightist and leftist groups occupied stretches of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati's business district, bottling up traffic for hours.

It was the biggest gathering yet to call for the ouster of Ms Arroyo in the wake of allegations that she was involved in electoral fraud and that her husband and other relatives took bribes from "jueteng" lords.

But the protest was still a fraction of the size of the "People Power" uprisings that ousted late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

At the Folk Arts theater last night, evangelist and failed presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva gathered some 8,000 supporters and told the INQUIRER he expected "significant breakthroughs" to occur after the planned all-night prayer rally. He did not elaborate.

But Villanueva said a prayer march involving "millions" and representing various religious groups might follow if Ms Arroyo remained "stubborn" and held on to her post.

Malacañang belittled the size of the

BIGGEST/ A8

'GMA not problem, it's the minority'

By Cynthia D. Balana and Blanche S. Rivera

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo continues to enjoy the support of most Filipinos despite the "Gloriagate" scandal and her admission of impropriety concerning her votes in the 2004 election.

This declaration was made by Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman at a press conference yesterday, in reply to the question, "How do you solve a problem like GMA?"

Soliman was also asked why Ms Arroyo was contemplating a revamp of her Cabinet when it was her leadership that was in question.

To which Soliman said: "President Arroyo is not the problem for the Cabinet and, I'm sure, for most Filipinos. It's the minority that is making a lot of noise, but even one voice of dissent must also be heard. I'm pretty sure GMA is listening very well and very hard."

Elsewhere, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor downplayed the daily demonstrations calling for Ms Arroyo to step down.

He said the tape controversy would not be sufficient to bring down Ms Arroyo, and said the protest actions were not reminis-

GMA/ A8

Cory: I'm 72, too old for another people power

By DJ Yap, Blanche S. Rivera and Michael Lim Ubac

THE WIDOW who once inspired millions of Filipinos to stop tanks on Edsa yesterday said she was too old for people power.

"I am 72 years old. I feel so old," said former President Corazon C. Aquino, the woman who helped topple two governments on Edsa, during the first Friday Mass at the church of Gesu in the Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City.

A picture of grace and calm amid a brewing political storm, Aquino repeated her earlier stance not to resort to extra-constitutional means of wresting power from the Arroyo administration.

Because of her position, leftist leaders now view the idol of people power as a *contravida*. They accused Aquino, whose ascent to power they supported two decades ago, of hypocrisy and immorality for urging Susan Roces, widow of actor Fernando Poe Jr. who has called for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, to adhere to the rule of law.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines said Aquino was the least qualified to advise Roces to stay with the Constitution because she herself benefited from extra-legal means of removing a leader from power.

"It is immoral for Corazon Aquino and others to condone the crimes of Gloria M. Arroyo and help to keep her in power. Aquino is the least qualified to advise Susan Roces on the rule of law," NDFP chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison said in a statement from Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Aquino had never filed an electoral protest to prove legally that she had been cheated by Marcos or lodged impeachment proceed-

CORY/ A8

GOOD NEWS on a bad news day: President Arroyo shows Energy Secretary Lotilla her approval while on board the first commercial compressed natural gas bus during a test run from Malacañang to Luneta. By August this year, 35 CNG-fed buses will ply the Batangas-Manila route which will bring down transport cost. *(Story on Page A2.)*

REM ZAMORA

'GLORIA-GARCI' PROBE

3 generals on tape asked to explain

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

WERE the police and the military involved in the alleged conspiracy to rig the May 2004 elections?

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, former chair of the House defense committee, wants the answers to come from Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lomibao and the military generals whose names were mentioned in the "Gloriagate" audio tapes played at the House in open session on Thursday night.

Golez, who recently bolted the administration party, said Lomibao, Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, and other military officers should clarify their roles during the elections after they were accused of involvement in rigging the May 2004 elections.

"One of the modus operandi in electoral fraud revealed in the tapes is the participation of the military and the PNP," Golez said.

Lomibao was then chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group while Esperon was the AFP deputy chief of staff for operations. In March this year, Lomibao was promoted PNP chief. Esperon will replace Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga as Army chief.

"Any general mentioned in the tapes who fails to be cleared must

3 GENERALS/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: ERICA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/02/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senate calls Bong Pineda

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE TWO Senate committees investigating the illegal numbers game of jueteng will summon Pampanga-based suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda next week—if they can find him.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on public order, said Pineda would be asked to testify at the next hearing after his name cropped up in the previous hearings.

Pineda is an elusive gambling lord long rumored to be a close friend and supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had included him in his list of jueteng lords and other personalities whom he felt should be invited to the Senate inquiry.

Self-confessed bagwoman Sandra Cam testified the other day that Pineda tried to bribe her to recant her testimony that she delivered jueteng payola to Ms Arroyo's son Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and brother-in-law Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo at the House of Representatives in December last year.

Cam said Pineda offered her a substantial amount so she could relocate to either Hong Kong or China. The offer was P30 million to P50 million, according to Cam's lawyer Frank Chavez.

But administration senators are seeking to demolish the credibility of Cam, who has been the star witness of Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

Never elected

Of the four jueteng witnesses who testified, it was only Cam who directly linked the Arroyos to the jueteng payoffs.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago earlier said Cam's credibility hinged on her claim that she was a former provincial board member of Masbate.

Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, former police director of Bicol, had denied all of Cam's allegations and presented a certification from the Masbate election office that Cam was never elected to that position.

Cam said she collected the jueteng payola for Mosqueda, who in turn gave the payoffs to the two Arroyos.

On Thursday, the acting election supervisor of Masbate, Armando Ricarte Jr., produced records from his office showing that Cam was not a board member.

It was only then that Cam's lawyer Frank Chavez disclosed that Cam did serve as provincial board member—from July to September 2001—before she was unseated.

Cam did not reveal this in the past hearings.

Two businesswomen also submitted affidavits to the committees accusing Cam of being a swindler.

Susan Gomez, one of the businesswomen, said in her affidavit that she had filed an estafa case against Cam for issuing P160,000 worth of checks, for apartment rental in Malate. But the checks had bounced.

Gomez said she allowed Cam to lease the apartment up to May 20, 2004 after Cam represented herself as board member of Masbate. She did not get a turn to testify.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the revelation by Ricarte and the estafa cases against Cam had put her credibility in doubt.

"I believe this new development has put into question the credibility of Ms Cam," Gordon said.

GMA launches natural gas as vehicle fuel

WITH fuel prices shooting up as an expanded value-added tax came into effect, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday presided at the launching of an alternative vehicle fuel that is cheaper than diesel and would eventually translate into lower transport fares.

The President rode in one of two buses powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), the same fuel used by stoves and homes with the added benefit of being cleaner and cheaper than gasoline.

Joining the President in the road test that took Ms Arroyo and her party to the Rizal Park at the Luneta and back were the government's partners in the Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport that is implementing the use of CNG as an alternative fuel for vehicles.

By August, the government intends to put into operation 35 buses using CNG in the Batangas-Manila route.

Energy officials said 200 CNG-fed buses would be in operation in the same route by December 2005 and the first quarter of 2006.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla told journalists who joined the road test that the CNG project was a "multinational effort," with Canada providing the CNG technology, the United States, the engine technology and China, the manufacture of the CNG-powered vehicles.

The natural gas for the CNG buses will be supplied by the Malampaya gas field project in Palawan while Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. will build the "mother" station or depot for the CNG to be used in the buses.

Shell president Ed said Malampaya Deep Water Gas Power Project, which was developed to supply natural gas for power generation, was expected to produce sufficient natural gas for 20 years or so.

Lotilla said CNG fuel costs P14.15 per liter, almost half the current diesel price of P29.50.

Bus operators involved in the program said they were still computing what the fare schedule would be with the cheaper fuel.

"But definitely, it will be lower than the present rates using diesel," said Homer Mercado of HM Transport.

Mercado's company will operate 80 buses using CNG. The Asian Development Bank is funding the cost of acquiring 50 buses.

The cost of manufacturing a CNG-fueled bus ranges from P4 to P6 million.

Chavit offers P2M for proof of 'jueteng' in Ilocos Sur

ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday offered to give P2 million to anybody who could present any "solid proof" that jueteng still exists in his province.

"I will give P1 million to anyone who can point to me where jueteng is being operated in Ilocos Sur. The other P1 million would be a bonus for (Lingayen-Pangasinan) Archbishop Oscar Cruz" Singson said.

Singson made the offer in reaction to Cruz' statement that Ilocos Sur was one of seven provinces where the illegal numbers game was "back with a vengeance."

"There is no jueteng in Ilocos Sur. I've checked with police authorities there and all my local executives and they have assured me there is no jueteng in my province. Still, I am willing to give a P1-million reward to anyone who can point to me where jueteng exists in Ilocos Sur. And another P1 million bonus for Archbishop Cruz."

Cruz, who heads the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, did not say where he got his information.

But Singson tagged Sen. Jinggoy Estrada as behind the disinformation.

"Now that he is a senator, he wants to exact revenge on those who helped bring down his father by also causing their downfall through the same route—the jueteng route. Since it was I who blew the jueteng whistle on his father, he is now trying desperately to destroy me by concocting stories about me," Singson said.

Unfounded rumors

He cautioned the archbishop to be wary of those who are providing him information about jueteng that could turn out to be unfounded rumors.

Cruz earlier said that contrary to police claims, jueteng has resurfaced in at least seven provinces.

These include Laguna, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan and Quezon.

Earlier, the bishop said the illegal numbers game was also back in in Batangas, Sorsogon, and Quirino provinces.

In Pangasinan, police said there were jueteng "collectors" but no draws.

"*Ini-estafa nila ang mga tao. Walang bolahan doon* (They are cheating the people. There are no draws there)," said Chief Supt. Florante Baguio, head of the police's anti-illegal gambling task force.

As this developed, the alleged issuer of a P10 million check to Bishop Cruz yesterday denied issuing such check to Cruz to bribe the anti-jueteng prelate, stressing he has no account with the Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI) nor has he ever been involved in illegal gambling.

"It is obvious that Bishop Cruz was fed the wrong information or material, which unfortunately he has been proclaiming as gospel truth," said Rodolfo Hizon III of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Cruz earlier said the envelope that contained the P10 million check bore Hizon's name but the check's signatory could be someone else. The check, purportedly issued on May 12, 2005, came from BPI Atrium branch in Makati City.

"I categorically deny that I issued the check and declare that the signature appearing in the aforesaid check is not mine. As a matter of fact I have no existing account with any BPI branch and I never owned the account mentioned by Bishop Cruz," said Hizon. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

Pinay singer arrested in KL on drug raps

By Nikko Dizon

MALAYSIAN authorities arrested a Filipina at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) earlier this week for allegedly smuggling more than five kilograms of cocaine, believed to be the largest seizure of the illegal drug in the country.

Authorities are withholding the identity of the woman while Malaysian media only describe her as a "singer," a "sultry stunner," who is "leggy with movie star looks."

She is also dubbed as "Dragon Lady" who, according to Malaysian authorities, operates as a drug mule for a West African syndicate that uses Asian women as couriers and Malaysia as a transit point.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur had already been informed of the arrest.

Reports said the woman was arrested last June 28 upon arriving from a 14-hour trip from Johannesburg, South Africa.

The cocaine, worth an estimated 1.5 million ringgit, was discovered in her suitcase.

The reports added that a joint team of Malaysian and Thai anti-narcotics agents trailed the woman from Buenos Aires.

She passed through Johannesburg before reaching Kuala Lumpur, and was believed to be headed for Bangkok.

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Mike A still in HK; exile not enough, says Nene

MEDIA HOUNDS First Gentleman Mike Arroyo upon arrival in Hong Kong.

HONG KONG—First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was in Hong Kong yesterday, the apparent start of his self-imposed exile, a Filipino diplomat here said officials did not know whether he would stay in the former British colony.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband arrived in Hong Kong on Thursday evening, one day after the embattled President said her husband would leave the country to allow her to fight vote-rigging accusations at home.

"He is still in Hong Kong. It is a private visit and that's all we can say," said Noel Novicio, vice consul at the Philippine Consulate General.

"We were not informed about the details of his trip," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said it was not Mike Arroyo's "departure or deportation that matters but the resignation of Gloria."

Pimentel, the first to call for Ms Arroyo's resignation, said only her resignation can resolve the "crisis in national leadership brought about by the loss of her credibility and capability to govern the nation in the wake of the jueteng and wiretapping scandals."

"The President can send her husband and even their children to the moon. It will not matter much. The important thing is for her to resign because it is she who is the whole cause of this problem," Pimentel added.

Ms Arroyo acknowledged on Monday that she had talked to an election official about protecting a million-vote victory margin during last year's presidential election. She apologized for "a lapse of judgment," but denied rigging the vote.

On Tuesday, the President announced that her husband had volunteered to go into self-exile to spare her administration from further controversies.

Mike Arroyo, a lawyer from a prominent family, has become the target of an ongoing Senate inquiry into jueteng, the illegal numbers game.

He has been accused of taking kickbacks from jueteng operators, though no firm evidence has emerged. The President's son and brother-in-law are also accused.

Ms Arroyo was reportedly swayed by sentiment in the business community that the First Gentleman may have been meddling in governance and government transactions.

The President did not say where her husband would go and how long he would be away.

Mike Arroyo flew to Hong Kong on Thursday with the couple's youngest son Dato and his wife and young daughter. His lawyer said his final destination could be the United States. *AP with Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Noli: Don't belittle me

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro, suddenly thrust into the possibility of his assumption of the presidency should beleaguered President Macapagal-Arroyo resign or be impeached, yesterday called on the public not to belittle his capability.

In a television interview, De Castro said that while he could not be called an expert on governance, he knew what the people actually needed.

"People shouldn't make unwarranted judgment of my capability if they didn't know how I am performing as vice president and as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Council, which is backstopping the housing program of the President," De Castro said in Pilipino.

"I do not brag about my achievements. It is the people that we have helped to acquire houses or lots of their own who will testify about what I am capable of doing," he said.

The issue of succession has gained prominence following calls from opposition figures and some sectors that Ms Arroyo resign following her admission that she had improperly conversed with a Commission on Elections commissioner during the counting of votes in last year's elections.

The President had asked for forgiveness for what she called a "lapse in judgment" but her move appeared to have failed to stem strident protests against her leadership.

Succession issue

De Castro said he was forced to declare his preparedness to assume the presidency in case of vacancy because some people were confusing the issue of succession with the electoral protest filed against him by his rival, former Sen. Loren Legarda, before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

He stressed that he was proclaimed the winner in the vice presidential contest by the Board of Canvassers in Congress and that the burden of proving that he cheated in the election was Legarda's.

He also said he was not comfortable talking about his possible ascent to Malacañang because he did not want to create the impression that he was plotting to oust the President in the midst of the political crisis.

At the same time De Castro debunked rumors that he would soon leave the President should the call for her to step down continued to snowball.

"I am supporting the President. I'm still working to implement her programs," he said.

De Castro also described himself as an active team player in the President's Cabinet and would continue to be such. *With Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NDCC exec dies on flight home

A TOP disaster management official died of heart attack Thursday night during a flight home after attending an international conference in Myanmar.

Elma Aldea, executive director of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), was on a Manila-bound Thai Airways flight when she had a cardiac seizure.

She died shortly past 6 p.m. as the plane was cruising over Vietnam, according to the Department of National Defense (DND).

Aldea, 59, was also administrator of the DND Office of Civil Defense.

She was a retired colonel and a former Armed Forces chief nurse.

Aldea was returning from Myanmar where she attended a conference of the Asian Committee on Disaster.

"We are saddened by the loss of another key member of our national disaster team," Defense Secretary and NDCC Chair Avelino Cruz Jr. said.

"Colonel Aldea was a dedicated administrator of the OCD and her death is certainly a big loss to the DND and the NDCC family."

Aldea was a member of various crisis committees such as the US-Iraq Crisis Management Team, the Task Force for the Security of Vital Infrastructure, the Defense Election Action Committee and the Asean Committee on Disaster Management.

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Time to go, GMA told

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN A NEW sign that Church support for her may be cracking, three senior Roman Catholic bishops declared yesterday it was time for President Macapagal-Arroyo "to go"—and a fourth bishop said she should be accountable to her people.

In a statement which they said is supported by three other prelates, Bishops Julio Xavier Labayen, Deogracias Iñiguez, and Antonio Tobias accused the Arroyo administration of cheating its way to power, said it had "lost its moral and legal authority" to govern, and urged it to resign to avoid bloodshed.

Tobias, who read the statement to reporters, hinted that Vice President Noli de Castro might not be acceptable to his group if Ms Arroyo left office.

Asked if the group would settle for De Castro, Tobias said: "Those who are volunteering themselves to be the next president, they're all the same—they're the same *bibingka*."

He added: "We are not after personality change but systems change."

The statement read by Tobias represented the sharpest Church reaction yet to the searing political crisis triggered by accusations that Ms Arroyo had cheated in the May 2004 elections.

"This government has turned itself away from the people. It has lost moral and legal authority. It has cheated its way to power and violated the most basic of people's rights," the statement said.

Tobias said his group's position was also supported by Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan, Bishop Leo Drona of San Pablo and Bishop Vicente Navarra of Bacolod, who had mobilized protests during the June 11 "national day of mourning."

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales did not go as far as Labayen, Iñiguez and Tobias in calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation but his separate message indicated unrest among the clergy over allegations that the President was involved in electoral fraud.

"Let us remember that the offended cannot simply be consoled by expressions of regret," Rosales said in a pastoral statement to be read in all Manila parishes during Mass tomorrow.

"Forgiveness does not eliminate the need for justice, nor should it block the search for truth. Genuine forgiveness demands more than an apology, and those who seek forgiveness should be ready to be called to accountability."

Rosales said: "Any proposed solution to our present situation that relies on or leads to violence is unacceptable."

"Violence harms the innocent and inflicts wounds so deep that will take generations to heal," he said.

"Let us not fall easy prey to those self-seeking politicians from all the different political parties, who have held the country's future hostage to their own ambitions and have brought us to where we sadly find ourselves today."

Rosales added: "In these confusing times when people are easily swayed by emotions and led astray by quick-fix solutions, may cooler heads prevail. Let true lovers of the Filipino people come together to discern carefully before God, what is truly for the immediate and long-term good of the country." *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau; Grace C. Albasin, Michael F. Sarcauga, Dennis Jay Santos and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SC stops E-VAT collection

From page A1

In their petition, the opposition legislators had asked the tax law to be declared unconstitutional because it allowed the President to raise the VAT rate.

"The power to tax is legislative in character, and thus a legislative prerogative," the petition said.

Four petitions have been brought before the high court, the latest of which was filed yesterday by major petroleum dealers associations.

"Definitely it will affect the reform measures being undertaken by the government," Astro del Castillo, managing director of First Grade Holdings, said of the court order.

"Further delays threaten the fiscal position of the country," Del Castillo said.

But House Minority Leader Francis Escudero was triumphant.

"This is a victory for the citizens who are against the oppressive policies of the administration that are causing suffering to the country. This proves that the administration was wrong in passing the VAT [law]," the congressman said.

The government expected the expanded VAT to bring in an extra P28 billion this year to narrow the budget deficit.

It said additional revenues from the expanded VAT would rise to about P145 billion in 2006, after the President exercises her power to raise the rate to 12 percent from 10 percent.

Disappointed, surprised

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said he was "very disappointed" by the Supreme Court decision, saying the E-VAT was "the single biggest factor that can make or break the government's fiscal reform program".

"That surprised me," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at GK Goh Securities in Singapore.

"It's another screw-up for the embattled President. The last thing the President and the economy needs right now is this petition and this order from the Supreme Court," said Song.

Ms Arroyo is facing the worst crisis of her four-year presidency as the opposition accuses her of cheating her way to victory in last year's election and members of her family of taking kickbacks from illegal gambling syndicates.

Administration Rep. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser to the President, said that while he respected the court decision, the TRO would have a "disruptive effect on financial markets" and would make the Philippines lose a lot of momentum just when the country was back on the radar screen of investors.

"After all the effort, we are being thrown back to the dark ages. It is becoming increasingly clear to foreign investors, bondholders and official creditors that the Philippines is not bankable," Salcedo said.

Caught by surprise

Purisima said he and other finance officials were caught by surprise by the TRO.

"It will cost the government P4 to P5 million monthly in lost revenues. This can result in a serious setback to our fiscal consolidation program. That is why we are going to appeal this with the Supreme Court first thing Monday morning," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang respected the SC TRO, but "consistent with our belief that the E-VAT is our best prescription to solve our fiscal problems, our Solicitor General will file a motion for reconsideration."

Corazon Guidote, the presidential consultant on investor relations, said the government was "disappointed and surprised" by the TRO though she considered it a temporary setback.

Guidote warned that "the longer the VAT was delayed, the bigger the impact on investor confidence in the country."

The expanded VAT law was expected to be the biggest revenue contributor of all the measures intended to solve the country's fiscal problems.

On Wednesday, the day before the court ruling, Purisima said he expected the budget deficit to fall to P160 billion or lower this year from P187 billion last year as tax reforms boosted revenues.

He projected a budget deficit of P100 billion or lower for next year.

Budget deficit

The Philippines, Asia's most active issuer of sovereign debt after Japan, has run budget deficits in 11 of the last 15 years, including 2005.

The government has targeted wiping out its chronic budget deficits, which stood at P180 billion last year, by 2010. With the expanded VAT law, it expected to meet or even surpass the goal.

The E-VAT broadened the tax coverage to include more products and services, like oil and electricity.

This is the first time that VAT is being imposed on energy supplies and motorists yesterday started to feel the impact of the 10-percent VAT as oil companies increased the prices of their petroleum products by as much as P2.75 a liter, starting just after midnight on Thursday.

Chilling effect

In their petition to the court, the petroleum dealers said the E-VAT violated the constitutional principle of "uniformity of taxation and equal protections of all persons."

They said the law would have a "chilling" effect on their businesses, as dealers would absorb the effect of high petroleum prices. ***With reports from Abigail L. Ho, Michelle V. Remo and Reuters***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 2, 2005
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 27:1-5,15-29
Gospel: Matthew 9:14-17

The disciples of John came to him with the question, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast on many occasions, but not your disciples?"

Jesus answered them, "How can you expect wedding guests to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? Time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then they will fast.

"No one patches an old coat with a piece of unshrunken cloth, for the patch will shrink and tear an even bigger hole in the coat. Besides you don't put new wine in old wineskins. If you do, the wineskins will burst and the wine be spilt. No, you put new wine in fresh skins; then both are preserved."

Commentary

Then John's disciples come to him and ask him why do the Pharisees fast on many occasions but Jesus' disciples don't? Jesus declares that he is the bridegroom and that while he is with them, they cannot fast because of the feast of his presence, but there will come a time when the disciples will fast because Jesus will be torn from them. Jesus tells them that he is something altogether new and unparalleled-you don't patch an old garment with new cloth or else the hole gets bigger and you don't put new wine in old skins or the freshness of the wine bursts the skins and everything is lost. Jesus is newness and freshness of life that will preserve life and those who bear that life. Are we aware of the presence of Jesus and live feasting on his presence? When do we fast? Are we living fresh lives since our baptism and celebrating Resurrection?

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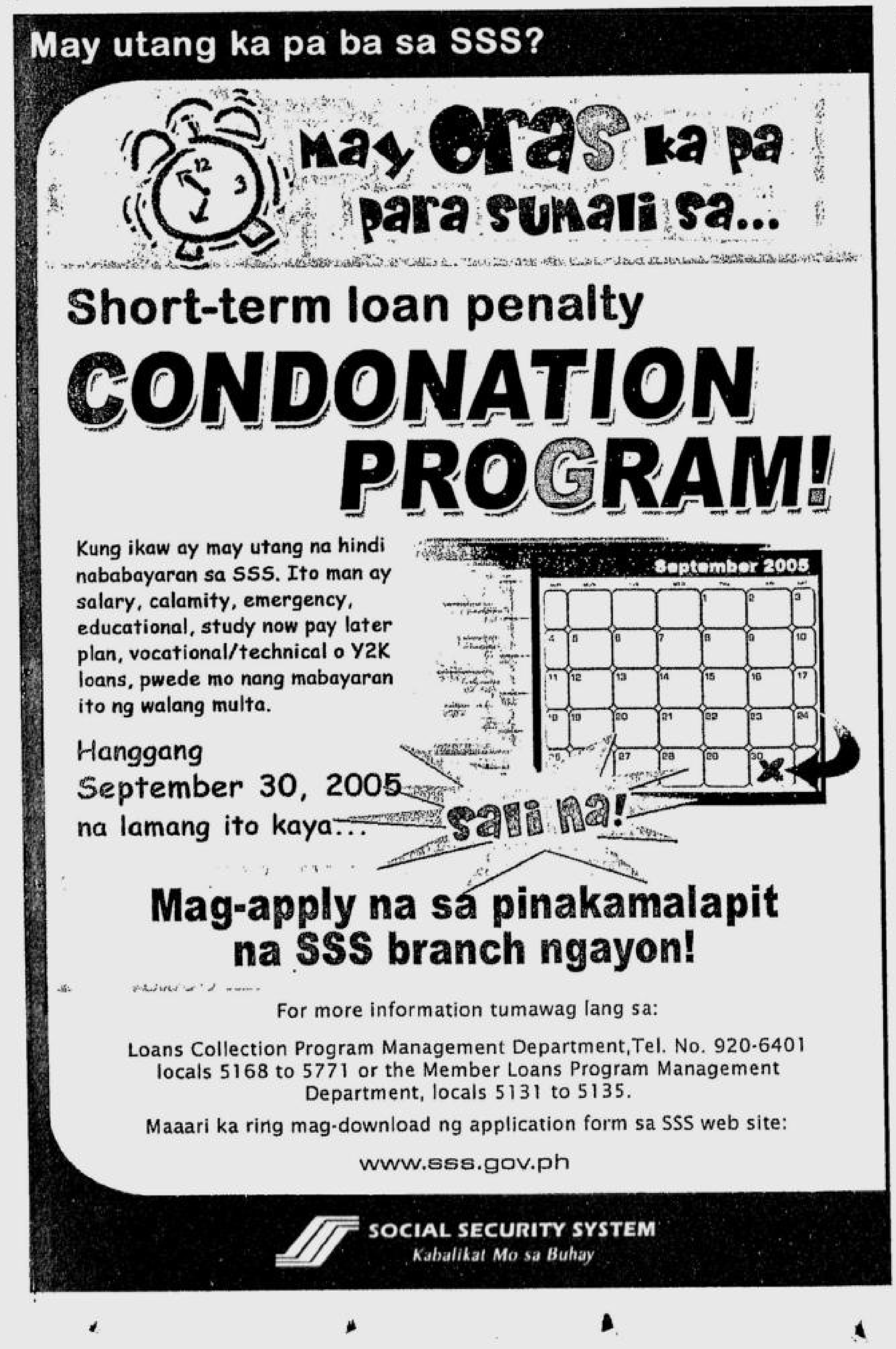
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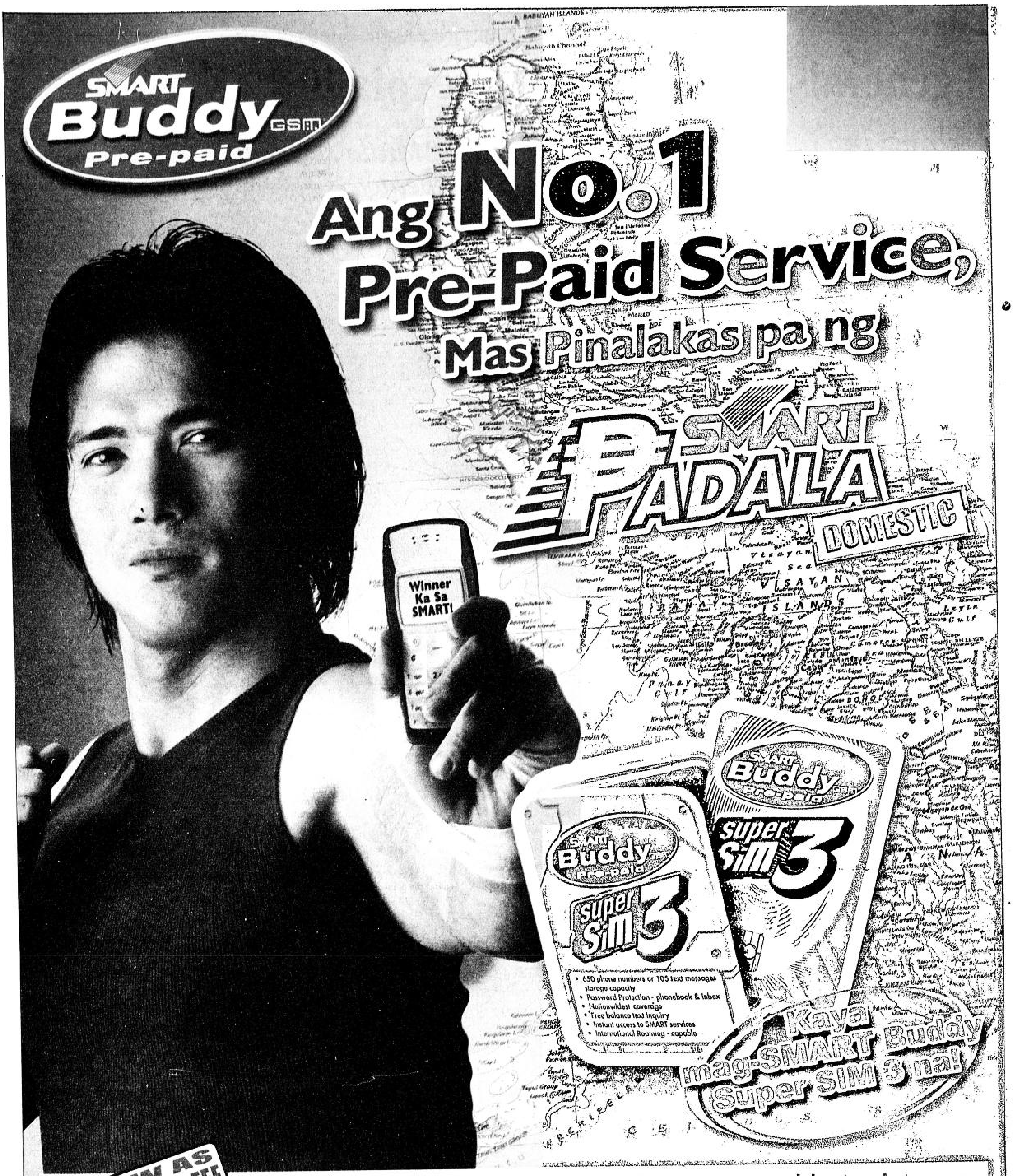

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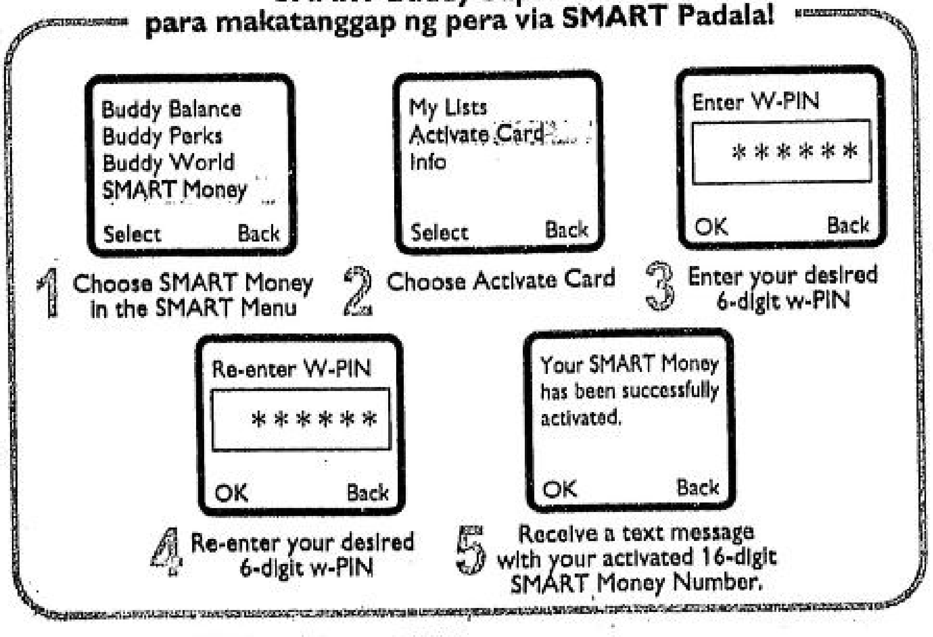
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3 generals on tape asked to explain

From page A1

be retired," he added.

He said both Lomibao and Esperon occupy sensitive posts and "must not be tainted by suspicion that they participated in electoral fraud."

3 generals mentioned

In the tapes submitted by lawyer Alan Paguia, the man believed to be former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano told a woman said to be President Macapagal-Arroyo that he had to talk to Esperon and Southern Command chief Lt. General Roy Kyamko so that then 1st Marine Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, whom they suspected of working for the opposition in Marawi, would be transferred "for a while."

The INQUIRER had reported on May 16, 2004 that Gudani and two other military officers were relieved on April 1 that year or more than a month before the elections.

In another conversation, the man believed to be Garcillano told the President that Lomibao was in Zamboanga and that "people around us talk to him so that they will be able to prevent what (garbled) happened."

Congress is expected to wrap up its investigation into the tapes by Thursday.

"What is expected to happen this week is for us to finish by either Wednesday or Thursday. There's a possibility that our hearings would end on Wednesday," said Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla.

Ong's security

Remulla said that among those invited to testify next week are former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director Samuel Ong and officers of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who were suspected of bugging the President's conversations.

Remulla assured the former NBI official of his security while in Congress.

The chairmen of five committees have decided not to write and ask the President for her comment after she admitted that it was her voice on the controversial tapes, Remulla said.

However, the committees would still write First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, former Sen. Robert Barbers and Garcillano, since House rules require that they should be informed that their names were mentioned during the investigation, Remulla said.

"They can come and comment or they can choose to ignore or refuse to dignify [the letter]," he said.

He said they had sent letters to the office of Garcillano and his last known address but received no reply.

All tapes to be played

Remulla said he would talk with other chairmen to decide when to stop the hearings since the committee would have to come out with a report.

"We want to put a closure to this although I'm still arguing with the majority that, at this point, (the testimonies) are not enough. We need to get a few more resource persons. We need to listen to other tapes that were subpoenaed," he added.

He said the contents of the tapes could be a subject of a separate hearing by another committee.

After hearing Paguia's version of the "Gloriagate" audio tape, the joint House committee will play all other recordings next week.

"We are after the truth, the whole truth, so let's play all the tapes," said Remulla.

Besides the CD version of the tape that Paguia submitted, the committees had also subpoenaed the two CDs presented by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye to the media on June 6, which were forwarded to the NBI, and the four "master" tapes in the possession of Ong.

But he said Paguia should submit his original tapes or the committees would hold him in contempt.

'Mother of all tapes'

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay challenged Ong to present the supposed "mother of all tapes" in the House hearing to "lay bare all the personalities, both administration and opposition figures, who were mentioned and identified in the tapes."

Pichay said that the Paguia tape "comprised the most incriminating alleged conversations of the President regarding the elections."

"But this is only an illegitimate child. We want Mr. Ong to give us his version of the mother tape which also contains interesting conversations of key opposition figures, in and out of public office," said Pichay.

For his part, Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella wants Paguia to submit to the committees the three-hour long tape, which was the source of the shorter version played out the other night.

Minority over majority

While the tape was being played, Cibac party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva told the INQUIRER that what was happening was "unprecedented and historic" because the "minority had prevailed over the majority.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said the decision of the majority to endorse House Minority Leader Francis Escudero's motion to have the tape played in open session proved to all that "this House will not obstruct the truth."

Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario said it effectively negated the opposition charges of stonewalling and cover up against the administration.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, who abstained from casting a vote because he was "still unconvinced" of its propriety, said the administration bloc was "one with the opposition in the search for the truth."

'Nothing to hide'

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the playing of the "Gloriagate" tapes in open session proved that President Arroyo has nothing to hide.

"The action of her House allies shows their confidence that the President did nothing illegal or impeachable, Their initial reluctance was more on possible legal implications in the treatment of wiretapped materials," said Bunye in a statement. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

59% of Metro Manila residents believe GMA cheated, says SWS

MOST residents in Metro Manila believe President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered an election official to cheat during last year's polls and want wiretaps of her talking to the official aired in public, according to a survey released yesterday.

The survey by the independent Social Weather Stations was conducted after Ms Arroyo admitted Monday that she spoke with an election official and apologized for the "lapse in judgment."

She said she only wanted to protect her votes in the May 2004 election and denied she manipulated the outcome, which showed her winning by more than a million votes over her main challenger, actor Fernando Poe Jr.

The June 28-30 telephone survey said 59 percent of the 526 adults surveyed in Metro Manila believe she told the election official to cheat, while 29 percent said she only wanted to protect her votes.

It said 84 percent support airing the wiretapped conversation in public.

About 20 percent of the respondents said the case should be closed, but 26 percent said they wanted more investigations and 18 percent said she should resign.

The survey also showed 48 percent had little trust in the President, while 17 percent said they trusted her. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Accusations that Ms Arroyo rigged the election and that her family received payoffs from operators of the popular illegal numbers game "jueteng" have plunged her administration into crisis, prompting opposition groups to demand her resignation. Ms Arroyo has rejected the demands.

The survey firm had earlier reported Arroyo's approval rating had plummeted to an all-time low amid rising prices, higher taxes and the illegal gambling scandal. *AP*

THE TRUTH SHALL SET US FREE

ITEM NO.1

The fact that an employee of NHMFC has been accused of a crime does not by itself mean that the entire management is tainted by graft. We have previously reported to the members of the Board of NHMFC on some possibly anomalous transaction.

ITEM NO.2

I categorically take exception to the allegation that I gave a TV talent an P8.2 million gift. The records of the estafa case I filed with the Makati Prosecutor's Office will readily show that the persons I sued reneged on their obligation to deliver to me jewelry which I intended to give to my daughter as a gift and for which I fully paid for. Records will also show that an amicable settlement was reached with the corresponding apology from the other party, and the same was even broadcast on national television.

The unfair and malicious insinuation that I generously gave an P8.2 million gift to a TV talent is a big LIE.

ITEM NO. 3

Conformably to E.O. 272, the Articles of Incorporation of the SHFC has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 17, 2005, subject to submission of other requirements.

Again, the allegation that I am a stumbling block to the implementation of E.O. 272 is another blatant LIE.

CONCLUSION

Since I assumed the presidency of the NHMFC in October last year, the undersigned has been responsible in turning around the financial state of the said government corporation, including the realization of a landmark deal that resulted to the sale of P13.5 billion worth of the agency's non-performing loan mortgages.

Most importantly are the reforms that the undersigned has instituted to streamline and safeguard government operations and government funds.

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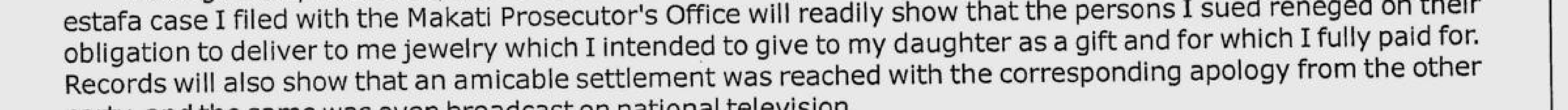
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No more 'telebabad;' GMA changes cell phone habits

From page A1

changing her phone habits—and, in effect, her management style?

Close allies of the President said she had cut down on her use of her trusty mobile phones in running the government, unlike before when most of her decisions and instructions were relayed through cell phone.

They said she was not responding to unsolicited calls and even text messages like she used to.

It used to be that for most government and business VIPs, the President was just a phone call away. But now, all those who want her ear are obliged to make an appointment and conduct their business in person, the sources said.

As a result, the President has also changed her management habits, the sources said. They said she had learned to delegate much of the little stuff that she liked to have a handle on, in line with her hands-on, micro-management style.

Businessman Raul Concepcion welcomed the reported change in the President, saying it would allow her to focus solely on the major items that required her attention.

"With many people giving her up to six months to mend her ways, I think the President has to have more time to concentrate on implementing the reforms that need both careful thinking and strong political will to implement," Concepcion said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye refused to comment on the reported change in the President.

Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, said he had not seen any difference in her habits.

No more 'telebabad'

But two days after Bunye exposed the "Gloriagate" tape last month, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita hinted that Ms Arroyo might have curbed her "telebabad" ways given the breach of security in her communication lines.

"The President realizes that maybe it should go along the grain of what you are saying—that she should not [conduct] long conversations [over the phone]," Ermita said in reply to reporters' questions on the effect of the wiretapping case on her phone habits.

"I am very sure the President realizes [the situation]," he said. But he added that she had not had any of her three contact numbers changed.

Ms Arroyo was not shy about her reliance on mobile phones to run day-to-day state affairs, which, she claimed, had allowed her to run the government even outside her office in Malacañang.

But her admission on June 27 of a wiretapped phone conversation with an election official during the canvassing of votes in last year's presidential polls has raised questions on her "cell phone management," the sources said.

Low visibility

Other things have changed as well.

Except for her day visit to Iloilo on Thursday, the President has been keeping her engagements strictly in Malacañang and within Metro Manila. She has canceled a trip to Samar scheduled for today, purportedly for an undisclosed event at the Palace.

Her absence was conspicuous at yesterday's 2004 Ten Outstanding Policemen in the Philippines (TOPP) awards—a ceremony that she had always attended.

Officials of the Junior Chamber International (Jaycees)-Philippines, the TOPP sponsor, said they tried but failed to get an appointment with the President for the ceremony.

Jaycees-Philippines president Jose Jimenez III said Malacañang officials had earlier asked that the ceremony be postponed because of Ms Arroyo's tight schedule.

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Cory: I’m too old for another people power

From page A1

ings against him, Sison recalled.

She became president in 1986 through the successful democratic mass actions of the sovereign Filipino people who ousted Marcos from power, he said.

Nilo dela Cruz, head of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade, said Aquino should not take the success of Edsa 1 upon herself.

Hypocrisy

"It is simple hypocrisy for Cory to invoke strict adherence to the Constitutional means. She herself benefited from such (deviation from the law)," Dela Cruz said. He also implied that the failure of Aquino to institute genuine reforms following Edsa 1 was the root of the current political and economic troubles.

"If she did not betray the real sentiments, dreams and aspirations of the people as expressed and manifested in people power, perhaps we would not be in this grave political and economic situation right now," Dela Cruz said.

Sison said Roces had more reason to seek truth behind the taped conversation between Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and join the forces calling for the resignation of Arroyo.

"Right now, Susan Roces ... widow of the main victim of massive electoral fraud in 2004, has the moral ascendancy over the usurper of office Arroyo, and even over Aquino," Sison said.

Soldiers, cops

"Unlike Aquino in 1986, she (Roces) has no immediate personal interest in becoming president. Her current main interest is in fighting for truth and justice and demanding that ... Arroyo give up the presidency that she has stolen," Sison said.

He belied claims that there was no acceptable successor to Arroyo should she be removed from Malacañang and that a military government would rule in her stead.

Sison said he had information that at least four major groups of military and police officers were working for the withdrawal of armed support from the Arroyo government.

"They wish to shift their support to a new civilian government. They express allegiance to the principle of civilian supremacy, respect democratic rights and disdain military rule. At any rate, not one of such groups is ready to take power for itself and offend the other groups and the broad masses of the people," he said.

Sison said the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was already intensifying its tactical offensives in the countryside in support of the mass actions in Metro Manila. He urged the anti-government groups to form a council that will determine a program of action for the next government that will replace Arroyo's.

Burn bridges

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said Aquino should stop playing "guardian angel" to the President.

"She must be courageous enough to burn bridges with Malacañang," he said.

Aquino, who has refused to join calls for Ms Arroyo to resign over the Gloriagate scandal, had said that the President's "admission of judgmental lapses leading to improper conduct is a truly welcome development."

Amid a political storm buffeting the administration, Aquino asked the nation to pray for Ms Arroyo "and for all of us Filipinos."

Take up the cudgels

To this, the labor leader said, the widow of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.—besides offering prayers—should take up the cudgels for the Filipinos' struggle against injustice, tyranny and corruption.

He added that Aquino should realize by now that "Ms Arroyo has no moral, political and legal authority to rule."

"Mrs. Aquino's actions cannot bail Mrs. Arroyo out of the people's mounting calls for her ouster," said Mariano, referring to the former President's second visit to actress Susan Roces, widow of late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., on Thursday.

Aquino's son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, a member of the joint House committee also disappointed his colleagues in the House when he voted on Thursday night against the playing of the audio tape, although an overwhelming majority had voted yes.

Political payback

Mariano said that "the people knew very well why Mrs. Aquino is doing these things for the Arroyo administration.

"They (Aquino's actions) are no less than a political payback," said Mariano, noting that Ms Arroyo was the "most powerful and influential patron" of the Cojuangco-Aquinos in the Hacienda Luisita dispute.

Ms Arroyo knew what transpired during the Hacienda Luisita massacre, he said.

"They are both criminals clad in so-called prayers," said Mariano, mincing no words.

He said he hoped that the former President would be "courageous enough" to do the right thing even as he reminded Aquino that she herself was catapulted to power through unconstitutional means which eventually led to the establishment of a transitional revolutionary government.

Disappointment

Aquino's response to the growing clamor for the President's resignation had elicited scathing remarks from several quarters including INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros who said "Cory is the real disappointment."

"She didn't exactly defend GMA (Ms Arroyo) but she did ask us to just resort to prayer and move on. Didn't Cory protest bitterly that she was cheated blind by Marcos? Is there any difference between the murder of a man and the murder of the nation? Is it more vile to gun down a man while he walks in the sun than to strangle the nation while it sleeps in the night?" he said.

De Quiros stressed that "justice is the air we breathe. But [when] the symbol of the struggle for justice should now urge us to just struggle to subsist—that is the unkindest cut of all."

‘GMA not the problem, it’s the minority’

From page A1

cent of those that led to Edsa II and the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Defensor, a member of Ms Arroyo's crisis team and one of the first proponents of the impeachment complaint against Estrada in 2000, said the situations of the two Presidents were different.

He said Estrada faced one issue after another and was hounded by charges of graft and corruption, constitutional violations and perjury, while Ms Arroyo was only being attacked by opposition personalities over the phone call she made to an election official during the canvassing of the votes.

"I don't think that issue alone can be enough to mobilize ... key sectors in society to ask for the President's resignation, like what happened in Edsa II," Defensor said.

He said the people were consoled and satisfied by the President's public apology on June 27.

"Those who believe there was cheating, you can't convince them anymore, but at least [the President] was able to address the concerns of the general population," he said.

At her pleasure

Soliman said she was not aware of any Cabinet revamp or more resignations—after Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap's—from the Cabinet.

Nevertheless, she said, Cabinet members were ready to leave government service in case they were no longer needed.

"We all know that we serve at the pleasure of the President. We are all [her] extensions," she said.

Asked about Yap's resignation, Soliman said it was a commendable act that spared the President further political controversy.

Yap was recently charged with tax evasion by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which said a company owned by his family had undervalued the sale of a real estate property.

Soliman said many of those she had spoken with were more concerned about the possible disruption of the delivery of government services than "the wiretapped conversation between the President and an election official."

"The appeal for us is to move on," she said. "I think all calls for change must fall within the rule of law. Otherwise, there will be anarchy in the streets. It's not to hide the truth but to follow the rule of law."

Asked if civil society, of which she was a prominent member, had accepted the President's apology for her "lapse in judgment," Soliman said there were "differences in perspective."

She also said she would rather let civil society leaders speak on this issue.

The process

Defensor said those who were convinced that the President had committed election fraud should resort to the impeachment process, as mandated by the Constitution.

He said opposition lawmakers should not use their smaller number in Congress as an excuse not to push for the process.

He recalled that he had only 27 supporters in Congress when he began lobbying for the impeachment complaint against Estrada in 2000. He said the number reached 40 when he pushed further, until he got massive support.

"You can't say you don't have the numbers. You really have to start from somewhere; that's part of the process," said Defensor, who served as Ms Arroyo's political spokesperson in the 2004 elections.

Sen. Richard Gordon, one of the first to be appointed to the Cabinet after Edsa II, also cited the "process."

He said that even with the tape scandal and the President's confession of impropriety, the people should reserve their judgment because the alleged commission of poll fraud should be verified through due process, as mandated by law.

"The process is such that even when a person has been shot in front of you, the case must still go through the process," Gordon told reporters.

"It will be the law of the jungle when you say, 'That person has to go because I don't like his or her face...' We have a law, and that law should be followed because it is what strengthens our institution," he said.

Gordon said he still trusted Ms Arroyo despite the supposed evidence of poll fraud and her June 27 confession.

"I give my trust the way a lawyer does. A person is innocent unless proven guilty," he said.

Fighting form

In Iloilo City, Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa said the President was in fighting form and ready to fight it out with those calling for her resignation or ouster.

Villa said the President was "re-energized" by her visit to Iloilo on Thursday "because the show of sentiment was sincere."

He said Ms Arroyo had prepared for the calls for her resignation "because she knows the opposition will not let go despite her apology."

Villa said the President was an "old hand" in facing crises.

"She knows she is being baited and this is all part of destabilization efforts ... to distract her from governing the country," he told the INQUIRER.

He said Ms Arroyo's basic answer to all the challenges posed by the opposition was to "go ahead and babble" while she focused on "good governance."

The President was in Iloilo on Thursday for the formal opening of Philippine-Spanish Friendship Week and the inauguration of the P55-million Jalandoni Bridge connecting Iloilo City proper to La Paz District.

Officials of Iloilo, where Ms Arroyo purportedly won by half a million votes over the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., expressed their continued support for her.

No wrongdoing

Some 1,500 municipal mayors affirmed their support for Ms Arroyo, saying they were prepared to match the protesters in the streets with pro-government forces.

The League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) not only accepted the President's apology but also acquitted her of wrongdoing.

LMP president Ramon Guico said it was only "normal" for candidates, whether national or local, to speak with members of the Commission on Elections concerning the status of canvassing.

"When canvassing is slow, you talk to the Comelec officer... It's just natural... Even mayoralty candidates do that. There's nothing wrong with that," Guico said during yesterday's opening of Biotechnology Week in Quezon City.

Guico said nothing that the opposition would say could remove the mandate given to Ms Arroyo by the people in 2004.

He said even the call of Poe's widow, Susan Roces, for Ms Arroyo to step down would not be enough to sway them.

"She (Roces) also just wants to be president, but they will have a hard time... They'll have to wait for 2010. They cannot railroad this," Guico said.

"If we have to, we mayors can bring our own people out there and show our support. We will overwhelm the protesters if we do that. Many of them anyway are from the squatters' areas who are paid to go out," he said.

Muslims, too

Various Muslim groups under the Filipino Muslim Democratic Alliance declared themselves among the President's supporters at a press conference in Parañaque City.

"We will support her administration until she finishes her term," said Sultan Sohaily Tanandato, president of the Muslim Peace and Order Coordinating Committee.

He said Ms Arroyo did not cheat in the 2004 polls because "that 1-million margin [of votes] in Mindanao was [authentic]. Muslims in Mindanao voted for her."

Hadj Wahab Sultan, president of the Baclaran Grand Mosque Association Inc., called on Roces not to make "a movie out of the issue of governance."

He called on Congress to stop the investigation of the Gloriagate tapes and turn its attention to the welfare of the people.

Sultan Mohammed Bano, president of the Taguig Muslim Association, said they were not willing to take part in any "people power" uprising against Ms Arroyo.

Elsewhere, Datu Amerol Gulam-Ambiong, chair of the National Muslim Peace and Order Council, said he was speaking in behalf of Muslim communities nationwide in saying, "We are behind President Macapagal-Arroyo all the way." *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Margaux C. Ortiz and Jocelyn R. Uy in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Peso rebounds to 55 to $1 . . .

From page A1

But the main Manila stock average lost about 1.51 percent by midday, extending losses. Dealers said major blue chips Philippine Long Distance Telephone and Ayala Corp. led decliners amid plans by the opposition to stage more street protests against the administration.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 20.89 points to 1,895.25 after trading between 1,895.18 and 1,924.23. Turnover amounted to 325.77 million shares worth P1.53 billion.

Traders said the foreign exchange market also turned cautious ahead of the oath-taking of incoming Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. on Monday, amid speculations the new chief might take a tougher stance against currency speculators.

The peso hit an intra-day low of 56.05 at the Philippine Dealing System but recovered to a high of 55.83 before closing at 55.87 to the US dollar.

‘Uncertainty diminished’

Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines treasurer Roland Avante said the market had welcomed the playing of a tape supposed to contain bugged conversations which suggested President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement in election-rigging.

Deliberations on whether the tape should be played were aggravating political tensions in the past few days.

"The tape has been heard so I guess the uncertainty has diminished," Avante said.

"It doesn't mean that everything is back to normal but the market is now trying to measure the situation and the emerging view is the peso has depreciated more than the situation requires," Avante said.

On Thursday, the peso hit an intra-day low of 56.255, or very near the record low of 56.45 to the dollar.

"The depreciation was overdone. The peso was too oversold so this was a correction," Avante said.

Silver lining

"A silver lining over the horizon can be seen at today's close at 55.87:$1. It suggests further tests towards the 55.75 level is possible in the coming weeks," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

Ravelas said trading on Monday might hovered between P55.75 and P55.90 to the dollar.

Biggest anti-GMA . . .

From page A1

Makati protest.

"The opposition and anti-government groups have been organizing one failed rally after another," presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said in a text message.

"It's only a matter of time before they completely lose steam."

Claudio added: "The sparseness of the crowd indicates the indifference of the so-called Silent Majority to the agenda of the opposition."

Gathered near the Ninoy Aquino monument on Ayala, leftists mingled with rightwing politicians, some priests and pastors, and supporters of Estrada—an object of leftist ridicule five years ago.

United Opposition chair Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said the assembly was symbolic.

"It's nice that we are gathered here in the financial district. In a private corporation, if the CEO [chief executive officer] mismanaged his company, he or she has to be removed," Binay said.

Surly Gloria

Binay wore a navy blue shirt embossed with a photo of a surly-looking Arroyo and captioned: "Step down."

Villanueva dropped by at the Makati rally and told the crowd: "There's an unwritten conspiracy among the political power, economic business power and the religious power of the country." He added:. "They are conspiring to suppress our movement for change."

Crucial weeks

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson hinted the next few weeks would be an uncomfortable period for Ms Arroyo.

'July and August will be critical months for her because the citizenry is not yet fully-informed about the cheating," Lacson said told the INQUIRER.

Lacson said he and opposition leaders were set to launch a nationwide caravan to disseminate the tapes containing Ms Arroyo's many phone conversations with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano prodding him to produce a one-million-vote margin for her in the 2004 election.

"We will play the tapes and distribute the tapes to the people," Lacson said.

He said the first leg of the caravan would be held from Quezon in the south to Baguio City in the north and last two days.

Markets unnerved

Lacson said the caravan would coincide with the launching of the distribution centers where the people can get free copies of the CDs.

The Makati demonstration brought together activists from the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Bayan, Gabriel and Pamalakaya, supporters of the late opposition presidential candidate and actor Fernando Poe Jr. and Estrada's followers.

Several opposition lawmakers also showed up—Ronaldo Zamora, Jacinto Paras, Rolex Suplico, Imee Marcos and Mujib Hataman.

Why Makati

Bayan leader Renato Reyes said the protesters chose to hold their rally in Makati "to bring the issue to the professional and the middle class and the business sector. Fundamentally, this is a rally-friendly city."

"This is not to destabilize. This is just a convergence of people who express common interest: for [Ms Arroyo] to admit she cheated, and give back the government to the people," said Paras of Negros Oriental.

Placards carried by the demonstrators read: "Fake President, get out of there" and "Goodbye, Gloria."

Estrada's son, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, said: "This is a convergence of Edsa II and Edsa III forces. And with this, I think she has lost the credibility to lead the country. If she really loves the nation, she should just step down."

A few blocks away, another anti-Arroyo coalition announced it had taken initial steps towards removing the President from office.

Abat's group

"This is an extra-constitutional process," retired Army Chief Fortunato Abat told reporters at Rockwell Center. "We are now unifying the people to be able to establish a transition government that would clean the system that has been here for 60 years."

Abat, leader of the Christian Nationalist Union (CNU), said members had begun forging alliances with civil society and multi-sectoral groups nationwide.

He said the group hoped to build enough pressure to compel Ms Arroyo to resign.

"She has two options. She could resign, or we would move for her ouster," former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez Jr., another CNU leader, told the same press conference.

Abat and Enriquez denied that former President Fidel Ramos, whom they both served, was involved in their campaign. They said Ramos had never contributed in any way to their cause.

"I would welcome his help but right now, even an inspirational message, zilch, none," said Enriquez.

He said the country, especially Ms Arroyo, should sit tight in the coming days.

A neutral military

"There are more good things to come. very soon," Enriquez said.

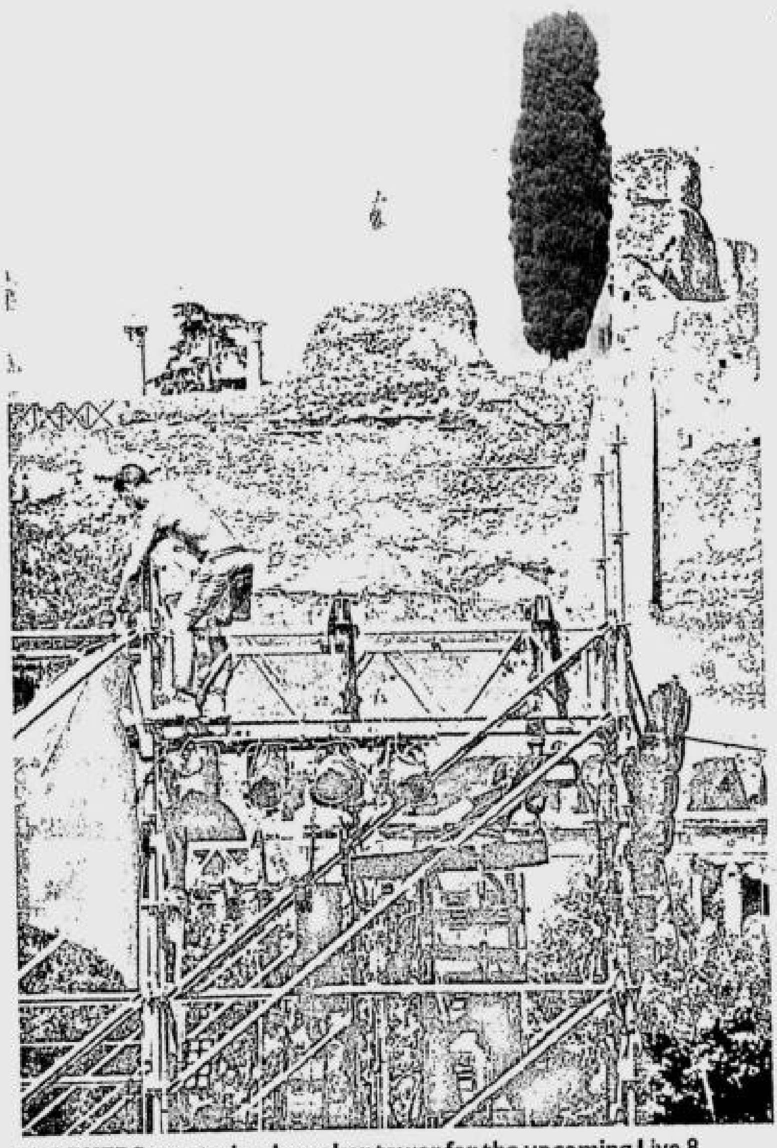
Asked what the military's role would be in his group's plans, Abat said: "We are not looking at a military takeover. What we ask of the military is to be responsible in protecting a violated people, and would ask them to remain neutral."

He said a 15- to 20-man ruling council, representing various sectors, would elect among themselves an "interim Chief Executive," who would lead the country for one to two years and draft a new constitution.

A newly formed alliance of migrant Filipinos also pressed for Ms Arroyo's ouster or resignation.

Called "Overseas Filipinos, Their Families and Advocates Unite, Rise to Oust the Arroyo Regime," or Outrage, the group, in a statement, urged overseas workers not to course their remittances through banking channels as long as Ms Arroyo was in power. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christine O. Avendaño, Jerome Aning, Reuters and AFP*

World leaders pressed to tackle record oil prices



WORKERS erect a loud speaker tower for the upcoming Live 8 concert inside Rome's ancient Circus Maximus June 30. REUTERS

PARIS—With US airlines losing $17,000 a minute, world leaders are under pressure to respond to record world oil prices when they discuss the state of the economy and trade at a Group of Eight (G8) summit in Scotland next week.

President George W. Bush said in Washington he was looking forward to hearing what others were doing to promote growth and to "nice discussions about currency," adding that he would also talk to Chinese leader Hu Jintao about Chinese energy policy.

Ahead of the summit, tension is simmering over British calls for a halt to farm export aid in rich nations for Africa's sake, floods of cheap Chinese exports and accusations that the United States is living dangerously beyond its means.

After oil hit a record of $60.95 a barrel this week, Canada confirmed that leaders would broach the risks of high fuel costs hurting US economic growth or smothering the already sluggish economies of much of continental Europe and Japan.

US Air Transport Association chief James May says American airlines are losing $17,000 a minute, which is roughly the same as one oil giant, France's Total, made in profit last year.

French President Jacques Chirac, losing popularity as well as the battle against unemployment, condemned oil price swings, erratic currency exchange rate movements and other "imbalances" in the world economy this week, calling for cooperation at G8 level to address the threat.

One G8 official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the leaders, whose agenda is devoted to climate change and aid for Africa, would take time out to discuss their own economic problems and publish recommendations in a statement.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder is as worried as Chirac and pressing for the G8 to show it can adapt to a new economic order and a power shift towards low-cost China, where the city of Wenzhou alone makes most of the world's shoes and sex toys.

Illustrating the shift, Chinese state oil company CNOOC Ltd. is bidding $18.5 billion to buy California-based oil company Unocal Corp. in a move that has caused concern among some members of the US Congress.

Diplomats were working flat out in London to prepare the way for a summit that starts on Wednesday and primarily involves United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, Italy, France, Britain and Russia, the G8 club.

China's Hu is due to meet the G8 leaders on the first day of the July 6-8 meeting at the Gleneagles hotel, along with leaders from India, Mexico, South Africa and Brazil.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said on Wednesday there would be discussion of currencies and notably the Chinese yuan.

An official told Reuters the summit would repeat a call made more than a year ago in Florida for more exchange rate stability and for greater "flexibility"—code for urging China to ease state controls that keep its currency low and exports cheap.

The dollar's decline over the past few years has abated for now, easing complaints from Europe that its exporters are being hit by the corollary rise in the euro. But Beijing has said it will not be bullied into changing before it is ready. *Reuters*

Japan to kick off global Live 8 concerts for Africa

TOKYO—Pop stars and poverty in Africa will share center stage Saturday when Japan kicks off the worldwide series of Live 8 concerts, stepping up pressure on world leaders to take action to help the poorest continent.

Ten linked concerts across the Group of Eight (G8) most powerful nations and South Africa will draw millions of people to hear top talents such as Madonna and U2, while also learning about the daily misery in much of the developing world.

The organizers, led by rocker-turned-activist Bob Geldof, hope to use the event to focus a huge global effort into pressuring G8 leaders to strike a deal on debt, aid and trade for Africa at a summit in Scotland on July 6-8.

"It is the biggest and best concert the world has ever seen," said Oliver Buston, European director of Data (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa), the Africa campaign group of U2 singer and activist Bono, which helped plan Live 8.

"It is going to be spectacular and the whole thing is being organized with the sole purpose of putting serious, political pressure on the G8 to deliver what is needed for Africa," he told AFP.

Japanese band Rize will open the global show at 0500 GMT (1:30 p.m. in Manila), and be followed by fellow local artists Dreams Come True, Def Tech and Do As Infinity. Also on the bill are Icelandic star Bjork, British band McFly and US act Good Charlotte.

The show is the first large-scale concert with a social conscience in Japan, whose music scene is dominated by commercially-driven pop. Tokyo did not play any role in the original Live Aid concert 20 years ago.

Tokyo will hand the baton Saturday onto Johannesburg, before concerts strike up in London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Moscow, Philadelphia, and Toronto.

The Hyde Park concert in London will see the likes of Annie Lennox, Coldplay, Dido, Madonna, Paul McCartney, Sting, Snoop Dogg, The Who, U2, REM and a special reunion of psychedelic rockers Pink Floyd among others.

In Paris, Youssou N'Dour, Jamiroquai, Placebo and Johnny Hallyday were scheduled to take to the stage, while the Philadelphia concert will see the likes of Bon Jovi, Dave Matthews band, Destiny's Child, Linkin Park, Maroon 5, Stevie Wonder and P. Diddy play to the crowds.

To press home the message, each concert is expected to fall silent for a period while artists and fans click their fingers at three-second intervals to symbolize the fact that a child dies due to extreme poverty every three seconds.

Critics in Britain have argued, however, that Live 8 will simply serve to boost the profile and sales of the pop stars taking part and their record labels, and features too few black acts. *AFP*

Diana urged Charles to wed Camilla, says report

LONDON—Princess Diana urged her ex-husband Prince Charles to marry his long-time love Camilla Parker Bowles, a British newspaper reported Friday.

Diana gave him her blessing after becoming good friends with Charles toward the end of her life, her confidante Simone Simmons was quoted as saying in The Sun newspaper.

"Make an honest woman of her," Diana was quoted as telling Charles, reported The Sun, quoting from Simmons' book "Diana: The Last Word," which it is serializing.

Camilla and Charles, who have known each other for more than 30 years and lived together for several years, married on April 9.

Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997, had blamed Camilla for the breakup of her marriage to Charles, which ended in divorce in 1996. *AFP*

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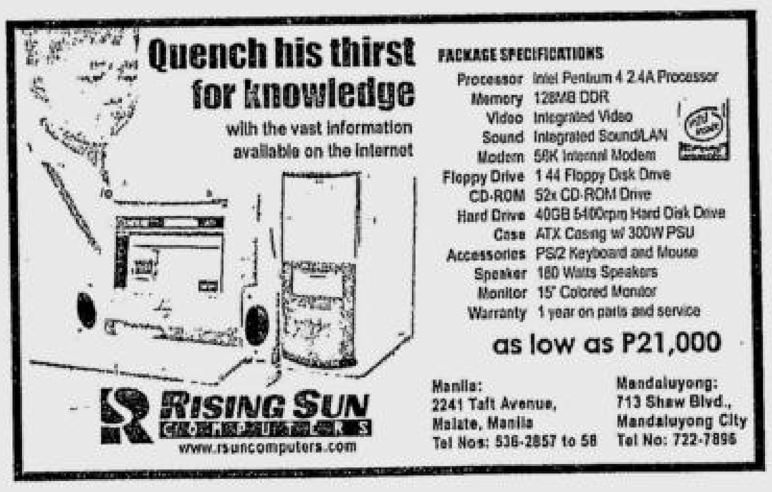

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OPINION

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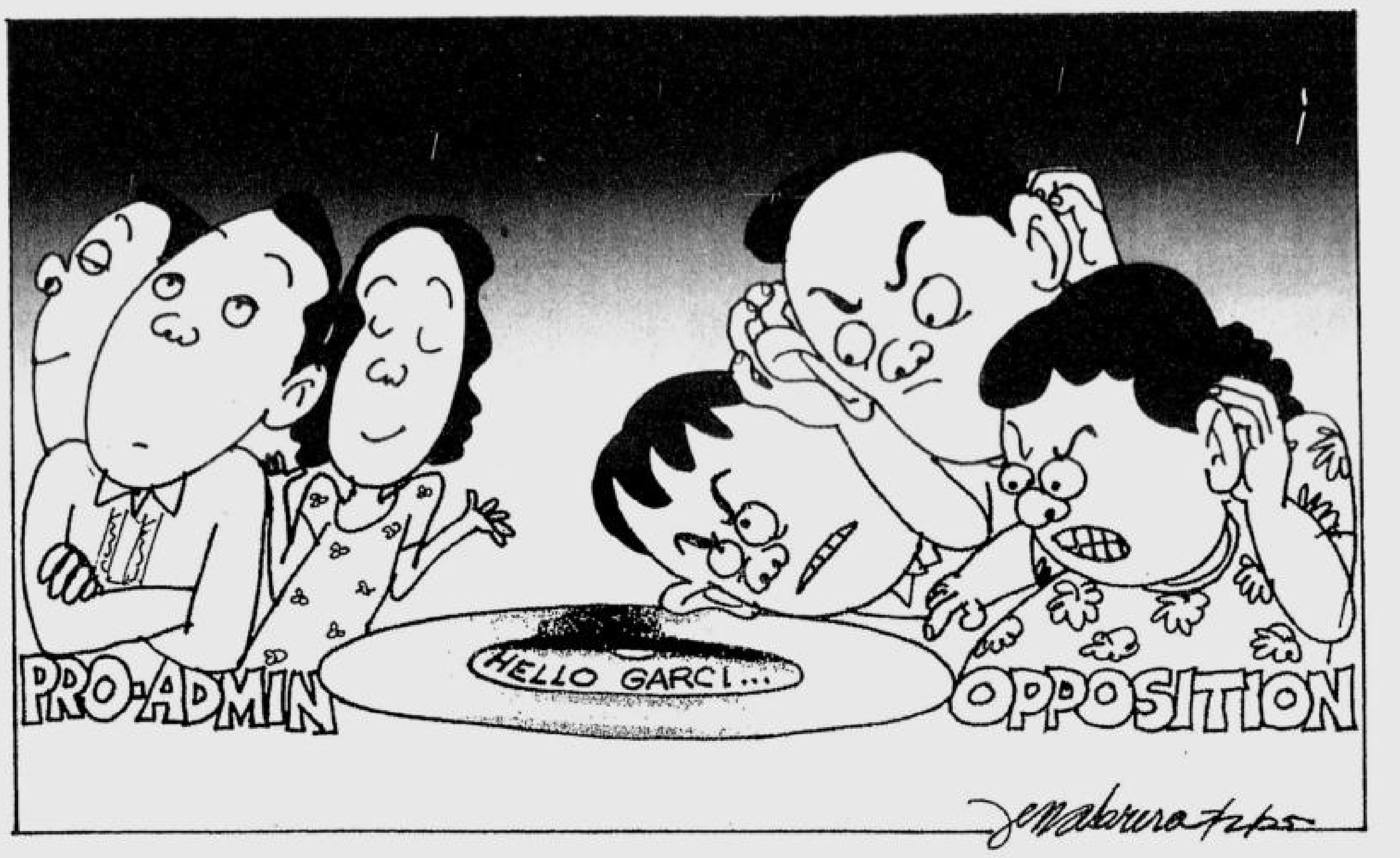

Defeatism

Editorial

SINCERE or not, President Macapagal-Arroyo's apology was a political one. It was addressed to the nation, in the hope of staving off her political demise. And it was only to be expected of a President, who wants to make sure she has the political resources to backstop her.

But it is a sign of the problematic state of the opposition that it is bogged down over the largely splitting-hair business of determining whether the apology was sincere or not. If the apology has put the nation in a political stalemate, that is largely because the opposition does not know exactly where it is headed.

Right now, the opposition's game plan seems to be to lead the country into chaos by stoking the flames of another people power revolution. The campaign is being carried out mainly by leftist forces that can mount noisy rallies but whose capacity to build up a critical mass from the middle class, the linchpin in the past two people power revolts, is dubious at best. The campaign is also being helped by supporters of the disgraced former President, Joseph Estrada, and the late presidential candidate, Fernando Poe Jr., who comprise a sizeable number, but whose partisan passions (fanaticism perhaps is the better word, since Estrada and Poe are movie stars) turn off the majority of the people.

But even if all the other presidential losers would summon their supporters to pressure the President to leave Malacañang, their numbers may not be enough. At the height of the campaign last year, evangelist Eddie Villanueva summoned tens of thousands to Luneta. They showed up, but their numbers weren't enough to make him win. Part of the reason was that he was carried solely by the evangelical vote, which, according to statistics adds up to less than 2 percent of the population.

Even if the opposition has the numbers, there's something worrisome about its tendency to wink at forces seeking an extra-constitutional way out of the crisis. Instead of following constitutional procedure and preparing for an impeachment, it seems content with agitating the people, hoping to rouse them sufficiently enough so that they would rush to the barricades. This can be gleaned from the reaction of House Minority Leader Francis Escudero to the move of party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleto (a Malacañang ally) to endorse an impeachment complaint filed by the lawyer of the Marcoses. He said the complaint was just a "moro-moro (charade) of the administration."

The opposition thinks it won't be able to impeach the President because impeachment is a political process, and as far as the political configuration in Congress is concerned, everything is stacked against it. This is a defeatist attitude and foolhardy. Surely the President cannot be expected to chop her head off and offer it on a silver platter to the opposition. We simply have a lazy opposition.

The opposition should do its job. If the President wants to douse the fires of political scandal by going through the motion of an impeachment process, thinking that the administration has the numbers to defeat it, then the opposition should call her bluff. There are ways of defeating the so-called tyranny of the majority, as Estrada found to his regret when the House of Representatives mustered enough votes to send the impeachment complaint against him to the Senate, or even now, when the House majority was persuaded to allow the playing of the controversial voice recording.

The opposition apparently smells blood and is now going for the kill. But in its rush to bring about a change of administration, it is putting at risk the constitutional process designed to ensure some stability in government.

The opposition must play its constitutional role of challenging the administration. It should at least have the moral high ground to function as a true opposition. If it wants the President to be tried and convicted for electoral fraud, it should do so within the process set out by the Constitution. If the process is frustrated by partisanship like what happened during Estrada's trial, then that would be the time to appeal directly to the people.

At this point, most of civil society and our people are reluctant to plunge into another people power uprising. If there are differences to be resolved or wrongs to be redressed, they would prefer that these be done through legal and constitutional processes. And quite rightly so, for nobody really knows where taking a different path would lead to.

Legislators as prosecutors

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

I HAVE often said in this column that most legislative investigations are useless *pakulo* of the self-levitators in Congress. The current *comedias* in the Senate and the House of Representatives are disconcerting proof.

Legislative investigations are required by the Constitution to be "in aid of legislation." But I have yet to know how many of such investigations have resulted in the introduction of bills and the approval of laws found necessary by the investigators.

The evident purpose of most of these investigations is to give the legislators a platform for publicity, an opportunity for them to demonstrate to the impressionable audience their supposed skills in the art of cross-examination. Many of them have flunked in this presumptuous exercise at the cost of the people's patience and tax-paid funds.

In the House probe of the Garci tapes, the first day was spent mostly in ensuring that every member would have 3 minutes, as limited by the rules, to question the witnesses. Many interpellators made it a point to stress that the time spent by a witness in answering should not be deducted from their allotted time.

In the Senate probe on the *jueteng* scandal, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada asked these foolish questions of Gen. Restituto Mosqueda: "Do you know PO1 (name)?" "Is it true that you asked him to buy *pan de sal* for you?" "Is buying *pan de sal* part of his job description or, for that matter, the job description of any police officer?" These questions were asked by the distinguished senator in aid of legislation.

When a House investigating committee sought to question Gen. Jacinto Ligot about his suspected unexplained wealth, the respondent invoked his right against self-incrimination. Rep. Roilo Golez could not invoke his right to investigate in aid of legislation against the general's right to be silent.

One Senate investigation with erotic suggestions was on the charge of then Sen. Ernesto Maceda that certain Filipino actresses were visiting Brunei to entertain some government personalities for lavish honoraria. The "personal appearance" of the Brunei beauties, as the media called them, gave them unwelcome notoriety and the gallery an inexpensive thrill.

If Senator Maceda's intention was to stop what he suspected as immoral activities, all he had to do was deliver a privilege speech against the practice instead of exposing it in a legislative investigation.

Some years back, the House of Representatives conducted an investigation of the "escape" of a rich kidnap victim of the Abu Sayyaf bandits. The suspicion was that he had paid a hefty ransom that was shared by military officers with the kidnapers. The probe "in aid of legislation" was quietly concluded and no law, as far as I know, was passed.

The investigation of Panfilo Lacson by three Senate committees for certain alleged offenses were avidly followed by the public. We subsequently awaited the report on the probe but it never came. The proceedings are now officially terminated with the change in the Senate membership after the last election. Much official time and funds were squandered for nothing.

The investigation of the Garci tapes being conducted by five committees of the House is getting nowhere. The question is which of several of such tapes that have surfaced is the authentic one. Obviously, the congressmen do not have the competence to resolve this puzzle as their expertise is on the merits of the pork barrel as a milking cow.

The Senate investigation has already given Jinggoy Estrada and other pretenders to exhibit their thespian abilities. But their chamber is not a footlighted stage, where they should have remained in the first place. The Senate is the august venue where Claro M. Recto brilliantly defended the Noli-Fili bill and Camilo Osias boldly attacked the Parity Amendment. The present members should not cheapen it with their antics.

The members of Congress are neglecting their primary duty, which is to legislate. The power to investigate is only ancillary to that duty. The legislative inquiry is supposed to be in aid of legislation, not of prosecution, much less of ulterior motives. If the power is to be legitimately exercised, it should be done in a serious search of the truth as a basis for necessary legislation.

I hope the more responsible members of Congress will persuade their self-seeking colleagues to perform their solemn task of legislating for the public welfare instead of promoting political schemes and personal conceits. Instead of usurping executive functions as inept and officious prosecutors, they should focus their attention on the primary task of legislation as assigned to them by the Constitution.

The conduct of our legislators on the whole has been disgraceful and disappointing. Public confidence in them has further eroded if that is still possible. The Senate and the House of Representatives should exalt the Congress of the Philippines instead of debasing and dishonoring it. There is still time for them to rehabilitate themselves and prove worthy of the people's trust.

The 'Truth Commission' option

Get Real

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE LONGER I listen to the discussions between the administration and opposition camps, the longer I watch the hearings in the House of Representatives and the Senate on the wiretapping and the *jueteng* investigations, the more it becomes apparent that there is need for an independent, fact-finding commission to get to the bottom of things, as it were, to establish the facts.

Take the cheating issue: The opposition claims the tapes show beyond doubt that cheating took place, or that there was a conspiracy between Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Virgilio Garcillano (the latter, per former Sen. Rene Saguisag, is the premier *dagdag-bawas* expert) to alter the results in her favor. They point to Garcillano's "*pipilitin natin* ma'am" remark, in particular, as well as to other portions of some 15 conversations between the two. Good point.

On the other hand, the administration mouthpieces are adamant in insisting that nowhere in those conversations can we find even a hint of an order from Ms Arroyo for Garcillano to cheat in her favor. Furthermore, they ask: How could the two possibly have been conspiring to cheat when by the time those conversations took place (May 25 and after), all the certificates of canvas (except for seven municipalities in Lanao Sur) had already reached Congress, and were beyond Garcillano's reach? In other words, how could Garcillano alter those COCs? Good point.

Then again, the opposition says that Ms Arroyo has no mandate from the people, and won only because she cheated, a claim reflected in Susan Roces' statement: "You stole the presidency not once but twice" and "*Ang mandaraya ay kapatid ng magnanakaw.*"

On the other hand, the administration defenders point to the margin of 1.1 million votes between Ms Arroyo (12,905,808) and FPJ (11,282,232), and aver that even if all the votes questioned by the opposition during the canvass proceedings in Congress were removed from Ms Arroyo's tally and transferred to FPJ's tally, she would still have won. In the same vein, even if the 400,000 or so votes by which Ms Arroyo won in Muslim Mindanao (which was apparently where Garcillano was "operating") were transferred from the Arroyo column to the FPJ column, she would still have won. So, they conclude, even granting that cheating had occurred, at worst it was to increase her margin, since she won anyway.

These questions, and more would be answered through the investigations of the fact-finding commission. The answers—particularly, if it is established that cheating took place; the extent of the cheating; and the people in the cheating network—would also be very useful for a total revamp of the Commission on Elections.

But why an independent, fact-finding commission? What about the Comelec investigation called by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos? Or the ongoing legislative investigation? And there is always the option of an impeachment trial. Thus, such a commission would be superfluous, not to mention that it might take too much time.

Perhaps. The idea of the Comelec investigating itself can be dismissed outright as ridiculous. With regard to investigations in "aid of legislation," unfortunately, our experience has been less than salutary, the ongoing ones being no exception. Only consider the grandstanding that goes on, the committee reports that never come out, and the distinctly partisan flavor of the deliberations (i.e., the primary objective being to make points against each other or to protect their respective interests, with the national interest taking third place, if at all). The kicker, of course, is that the legislature's credibility is not much better than the executive's.

What is the beef against an impeachment trial? As Justice Isagani Cruz (above) has said, historically, the impeachment process has shown itself to be greatly overrated. But my concern is that an impeachment now, when the facts have not yet been established, might be as counterproductive and as traumatic as the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, with questions decided along partisan lines rather than on more substantive grounds. Which is really to be expected, since an impeachment is more a political than a judicial process—and is vulnerable to the same credibility problems.

On the other hand, the findings of an independent commission composed of, say, five members—and armed with legal authority aside from the moral authority that they should have for integrity, competence and nonpartisanship—will not have any problems with respect to credibility. And if their findings warrant an impeachment, these will not be subject to as much suspicion and controversy as a legislative report (if it ever came out) or charges and countercharges made by obviously partisan personalities.

There are, of course, difficulties to the establishment of an independent commission: On the demand side, it would have to be created by law, which requires the cooperation of the President (who may not want the facts to be established) and legislators who for various reasons (e.g., they will no longer be able to grandstand or make unfounded claims, or their names might crop up in the investigation) may not favor the creation of such a commission. On the supply side, the appointing power (assuming we have a transparent selection process) might not be able to find five trustworthy and competent men and women.

But if that were the case, there would be no hope for the Philippines anyway.

Self-serving agenda won't work

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT was a very different Susan Roces who conducted her press conference last Wednesday. She shed off her image as the demure, above-the-fray widow of "Da King" and emerged very angry and *mataray* as she accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of "stealing two presidencies." With all the theatrical histrionics Roces could muster, she asked GMA to step down.

This might have sat well with many citizens, except that in the course of the interview, Roces was perceived as presenting herself as the alternative leader of the nation. In fact, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, probably seeking to redress the damage he had done to FPJ's candidacy by his insistence on running separately in 2004, immediately said he would defer to Roces in a snap election. Thus, in the perception of many people, Roces' attractive image of selflessness lost its luster as she was perceived to have a self-serving agenda. Former President Cory Aquino clearly saw the pitfall Roces was walking into, and she warned her that people power would never succeed if carried out for "selfish reasons."

Incidentally, Roces also came across as quite arrogant and *mataray* toward the media when they asked questions she didn't quite like. For many, it was an eye-opener.

* * *

Cebu City Mayor Tommy Osmeña has said a mouthful. While reiterating his support for GMA, Osmeña said he did not agree with the need for her to apologize over her call to an unnamed Comelec official (GMA had said she called to voice her concern over her votes during the "unusually long delay" in the congressional canvassing). Osmeña said there was "nothing wrong" with what she did, as there was probably no candidate who hadn't called the local Comelec official at some point in the campaign or counting to ask for protection of his votes. I agree. In fact, I dare say there has been no candidate who hasn't called the Comelec to ensure that his votes didn't disappear during the counting or in transport, given the amount of cheating that goes on during every election. For any candidate to deny having done so is to be hypocritical.

Intervention on one's behalf is at the very least unethical, but it's also very understandable in our culture. Many of us would not hesitate to call someone in authority whom we know, if we encounter some troubles. It's the way things are run in this country, and it doesn't necessarily mean willful violation of the law. In more developed countries, institutions enjoy the majesty of distance, but in most Third-World settings, especially in RP where who one knows is very important, this is not the case.

We should, however, move away from this practice, as it encourages the *lakaran* system and gives rise to many cases of fraud in electoral exercise or graft and corruption in service agencies. Reforms are urgently needed in government agencies, and one very urgent one is the computerization of election returns, which would eliminate the interminable count and transporting of results, and therefore the calls to protect votes.

By the way, it was former Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, an Erap appointee, who torpedoed the computerization project of the Comelec some years back. The opposition in the House fiercely thwarted her impeachment despite the tons of evidence of corruption Namfrel had put together.

* * *

GMA's call to a Comelec official to protect her already counted votes is, as she admitted, a "lapse in judgment," though at least two legal luminaries, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Miriam Santiago, have opined that it was not a willful violation of the law. (Sen. Joker Arroyo terms this lapse a "venial sin.") This aspect will be debated for some time, but the feedback from many people I've talked to, who, in turn, have been talking to the man in the street—their barber or manicurist, cab drivers, market vendors—is that the people realize that GMA did something that was not right. But they feel it's not ground for overthrowing this government or forcing her resignation. In addition, the average citizens appear to just want to put this whole controversy behind and go on with their own business and the problems confronting their lives, especially the impact of the VAT on prices. That people are tired of the controversy became evident in Thursday's thin rallies that quickly fizzled out.

* * *

Besides, the apology of GMA and her decision to sacrifice by banishing her husband have evoked sympathy from a people who have always been forgiving to a fault. In fact, many of them echo the feeling of a religious leader I was talking to, who says that at least GMA has apologized for her lapse of judgment. That is something, he added, that one cannot say of the Marcoses who stand accused of stealing billions from the people, or Erap whom Clarissa Ocampo has identified as Jose Velarde, or Lacson for his complicity in the Kuratong Baleleng murders.

* * *

If the opposition is going to depend on the common folk to mount an Edsa IV, it looks like they'll be in for a big disappointment. Or they have to spend a lot of money to truck people into rally sites. The real battle, it seems, is going to be played out in the propaganda field and here GMA's camp, ironically enough, is taking a beating in the media. At this point, the opposition's agenda looks clear enough. It wants to force GMA out so it could grab power for itself. By its own admission, the opposition plans to discard even Vice President Noli de Castro, her constitutional successor. Some reports say the opposition would install a junta led by Susan Roces in the event GMA falls. But as Cory Aquino warned, resorting to extra-legal means to grab power, or what Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile terms the "revolutionary path," is fraught with danger and has to be resisted by every patriotic Filipino.

Changing my ghetto

YOUNG BLOOD

Cyris Ann Aquino

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT'S not easy to live in the ghetto. It's not easy living in Tondo. It's hard to be surrounded by poverty and crime.

And it doesn't help when you're Chinese-Filipino. You stick out like a sore thumb, and because you have fair skin, you get hit for money by policemen and construction workers. Also because you are Chinese-Filipino, people automatically think you have more money so you always get asked to sponsor town events and to stand as godparents at weddings.

It doesn't help either when your family doesn't like what you're doing. You're not supposed to take up communication arts and you're not supposed to want to go to college to learn to be a teacher. You're supposed to take up business administration or medicine. You're not supposed to want a career that won't rake in money.

But I will say this: nothing beats living in a ghetto such as Tondo and nothing beats studying to be a teacher.

Living in a ghetto is fun because everything there is cheaper. Entertainment is cheap—and it comes to you live. You don't need to go out to watch a movie, all you have to do is open your window at three in the morning, and chances are you'll catch a gang war in progress. All you have to do is open your window at around 12 midnight, and soon you will witness a domestic drama in your neighbor's house and all you have to do is sing to yourself an appropriate love song to set the mood. The live drama beats any TV soap opera you have ever seen.

It becomes especially entertaining when the drunks in the neighborhood stay up until 5 in the morning, singing on the karaoke. We really have some very talented people in the ghetto.

What's fun is not just watching the gang wars and listening in to videoke nights or seeing a demonstration of some people's ability to steal hubcaps and side-mirrors under 15 seconds. It also feels great to see people living simple lives and notice how they deal with things without pretense—something that builds genuine camaraderie among the residents (despite the gang wars). The old women sitting on a makeshift bench along the sidewalk ask me week after week if I'm graduating anytime soon. She and a few other nice folks have been asking me that question since I was 14 and they never seem to remember my answer, but it's still sweet. People don't hold it against you if you can't do them a favor because they figure even that while you are a Chinese-Filipino, you probably have your hard times, too.

The vendor who sells green mangoes a few blocks from my house always gives me a discount because he says I'm helping send his kids to high school. The hawker who always reminds me to make sure I get myself a good man tells me not to get married until I am financially stable (maybe there's still hope for me). He also asks me all the time if I've already graduated. I can't understand why no one seems to remember the answers I give.

These people make Tondo so diverse. Each of them is special, every one of them is sweet, quirky and sincere in his or her own special way. All have something to share, all have the skills and the potential to rise above their present circumstances.

But I'm sad for them because that's not what they believe. They have resigned themselves to living below the poverty line, believing that is all they are capable of doing. Tondo is their place in this world and they will take everything that comes with it as their fate.

That's the main reason I want to teach. I want to show them that while I could have been like them, I made the choice to be different and I did achieve more than what was expected from me. But more importantly, I want to tell them that I believe not just in myself, but in them.

I'm not saying I'm great. I've lost more times than I've won. I most probably won't change the world, or make the peso worth as much as a dollar. I can't even make the drunks stop singing by 1 a.m. But I'd rather question my place in this world rather than accept things like they are meant to be that way. I believe I have boundless potentials and that makes me different and that's worth celebrating.

There is hope for me. And there's hope for everyone else, too.

Cyris Ann Aquino, 20, graduated last April with a bachelor's degree in communication arts from the University of Santo Tomas.

Women in peace work

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AMONG THE MORE than a hundred women who attended the announcement Wednesday of the 1,000 women nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize, 27 of them Filipinas, there were two who certainly serve as inspiration to all Filipinas seeking to make this a more gender-friendly world.

The two were former Sen. Helena Benitez, "Tita" Helen to all in the women's movement, and former Social Welfare Secretary Estefania Aldaba Lim, "Tita" Fanny to one and all.

With pride, Tita Fanny told me that she was celebrating her "double eight," that is, she had just turned 88 years old, a particularly auspicious age as it stands for "double luck" among the Chinese. At this, Tita Helen raised an eyebrow and said "I'm past that, I'm more than 90 years old now." And to be honest, she doesn't look it at all. I seem to have kept a mental picture of Senator Benitez from my childhood, and she doesn't seem to have aged a bit!

Despite their renown and—what some would term—their right to rest from their labors, these two "matriarchs"—a term I'm sure they'd be uncomfortable with—still made the time to join their younger sisters at the Cultural Center and pay homage to the 27 Filipinas who, if the Nobel Peace Prize committee sees fit, will become the first Filipinos to be recognized for the Nobel Prize, even if as part of a collective.

And perhaps it was also as part of the collective—a beloved principle in feminist theory and practice—that Tita Fanny and Tita Helen made the time to witness the presentation. And by their very presence, they underscored the long years of struggle that Filipino women have waged not just for equality but also for a more just, equitable and peaceful world.

* * *

WHY 1,000 women from all over the world?

Conceived by a Swiss woman legislator, the "1,000 peace women" initiative is meant to symbolize the work of women all over the world to wage peace in a world beset by war and conflict and to create the conditions that allow for the development of peaceful persons, families, communities and societies.

Peace work is not individual work, the organizers point out, and certainly it is not just men's work. But because "peace" is often seen as simply the opposite of "war," it is the work of men who negotiate the end of a war—a war they often had a hand in starting, it must be pointed out—which is frequently recognized and honored. And yet, day in and day out, women "commit themselves...to the cause of peace and justice, often under the most difficult circumstances. They call for reconciliation and organize peace talks, they rebuild what has been destroyed in villages and cities, they fight against poverty and create new sources of income. They struggle for access to clean water, land and other resources. They care for those infected with HIV and give war orphans a home. They denounce violations of human rights and publicly condemn all forms of torture. They hold silent protests in public places and seek solutions to all forms of aggression."

Indeed, there are many ways to "wage peace" as there are women willing to do the work. Among the 27 Filipinas in the list, who were named earlier by Ceres Doyo in this space, are past and present government officials, including a party-list legislator; educators; a lawyer and former judge; community organizers, crime fighters, grass-roots leaders, a stage artist and environmentalist; a filmmaker; Catholic nuns; and a psychiatrist who specializes in counseling women and children survivors of violence and torture.

* * *

"WHAT if women were in charge of peacekeeping?" one of the " Nobel" 27, Irene Morada Santiago of the Davao-based Mothers for Peace, asked rhetorically during the reception.

This was not just idle talk, it turned out. Irene, "Inday" to friends, said the Mothers for Peace and other women's groups in Mindanao, have begun discussions on how women would have handled the decades of peace negotiations. And if this "woman's way" would have resulted in different, if not more successful, outcomes, "Then we plan to 'shadow' the ongoing peace talks and try to come up with alternatives," Inday added.

The peace talks—not just with Muslim separatists but also with the National Democratic Front—are currently under the purview of another woman, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos Deles who, along with Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Juliano Soliman, is also one of the 27 Filipinas.

So can we say that peace in this country lies in the hands of women? We could say that, but note that the potential for escalating our present political conflicts lies in the hands of two other women: President Macapagal-Arroyo who can choose to ride out the storm regardless of the state of the nation afterwards; and Susan Roces-Poe, whose persona has undergone swift transitions, from grieving widow to wise counselor to combative figurehead of the opposition.

* * *

THIS column is being written in Kobe, Japan, site of the Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and Pacific, which opened yesterday afternoon at the Kobe International Conference Center.

I was invited to speak later this week on "sex education for the youth," based on my experiences as a resource person in "Usapang R: Rights, Respect and Responsibility," a campus "tour" of discussions, exhibits and stage presentations on issues of adolescent reproductive health.

"Usapang R" was a project of Kalakasan, an NGO that began as a group dedicated to advocacy on issues of violence against women and still conducts telephone counseling and rescue of survivors of violence. I'll share with you some insights gathered in the course of my taking part in "Usapang R," as well as from other talks and presentations at this conference. Peace to all!

A morsel of hope

Reyno B. Almonia

MY professor in law did not show up for our class that night. I was bored to death. Feeling hungry while waiting for my next class, I decided to go outside the campus.

Across the gate is the famous Barbecue Station, a stall selling delicious hot and spicy barbecue. When I saw it, I thought of buying "one set," made up of one barbecue stick and one *pusô*, (cooked rice wrapped in young coconut leaves).

As I approached the stall, four street children, aged about 6 or 7, caught my attention. They were begging for food or money from the customers. You could see from their eyes that they were very hungry. I thought of buying each of them a "one set," but my face fell when I saw two of them sniffing rugby inside plastic bags. Another disheartening story concerning street children, I said to myself.

Anybody who saw the scene would have felt sorry, if not depressed. To realize that the future of our motherland rests in these kind of children fills one with horror. These kids no longer care about their future. They don't seem to have any values. Their eyes only show indifference.

Where have their parents gone? I asked myself. If their parents no longer attended to them or tried to inculcate the most basic values, our nation would be brought to ruin. Parental neglect would erode the whole moral fiber of our nation.

But as I was about to let despair wash over me, I saw one of the children who was not sniffing solvent receive some left-over food from a customer. The little child immediately ran to the adjacent sidewalk with his precious gift. Out of curiosity, I followed him. Then I saw him slowly approach a sleeping middle-aged woman, whom I presumed to be his mother. Gently he woke her up.

The woman opened her eyes and propped herself against the wall of the imposing building housing a bank. I could see she was in great pain. I did not know what had befallen her, but that she looked very sick. I was dumbfounded when the hungry child handed his precious gift to the sick woman.

She caressed the child and then they started to eat together. I saw happiness radiate from their faces as they slowly ate the left-over food.

This small but very noble act of kindness and generosity of the child humbled me. It filled me with joy and hope that there are still street children, like the child, who care for others. In that child I saw something precious that I had long thought I would never see among street children: a morsel of hope.

Reyno B. Almonia, 27, is a 3rd year law student at Xavier University and works with the National Labor Relations Commission.

Notable features of Manila in 1859 (3)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THERE was also in Intramuros, aside from the Cathedral, the churches of San Agustin, San Francisco and Recoletos. On the street of Del Hospital stood the church and convent of the Santa Clara nuns who followed the rigorous rule of St. Francis. The founders were two religious from Sevilla and two from Mexico who arrived on Aug. 5, 1621 and took possession of the property in November of the same year.

In 1594, Perez Dasmariñas established one of the principal schools for girls, all orphans of Spanish soldiers: Santa Potenciana located on Calle del Palacio, corner Victoria. At the time, there were 24 scholars. Another school founded in 1632, Santa Isabel, was located on the same street but on the corner of Anda.

Three *beaterios* existed. One was Santa Catalina on Calle de Beaterio, corner Legaspi, run by the Third Order of St. Dominic, which was founded in 1696 by Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo, a native of Manila, and Fr. Juan de Santo Domingo, provincial of the order. The second was Beaterio of Santa Rosa, founded by Mother Paula de la Santisima Trinidad who hailed from Cataluña and arrived in the Philippines in 1750 specifically to educate native and *mestiza* children. In 1774, it was placed under the protection of the crown and entrusted to the regents of the Audiencia. A *mestiza*, Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, from the town of Binondo founded the Beaterio of the Compania in 1684, under the direction of the Jesuits. In 1859, it was under the Archdiocese of Manila. Annually a great many girls entered and went through exercises in three shifts. The first shift consisted of girls from the city and its suburbs; the second, from the provinces, and the third, *mestizas* and Spanish girls.

The most famous and most frequented promenade in the environs of Manila was the well-lighted La Calzada, running parallel to the outer ditch of the plaza from the bridge and the Cuartel del Fortin near the gate of the Parian to the beach. There the residents of the city would go in their carriages at sunset. It started in front of the Puente Colgante, where the beautiful gardens and promenades called de Isabel II were found beside smaller gardens and rustic huts known as De la Aguada that served as water deposits for the military corps. At the end of La Calzada beside the beach stood a small hall and an embankment with a grove of trees where the ladies and gentlemen walked around while others rode their carriages. They remained here when night fell to enjoy the fresh breeze from the sea.

Another promenade ran parallel to the walls and banks of the beach from the battery of San Gregorio to Fort Santiago. From there began a stone promenade that divided the waters of the Pasig River from the sea and, advancing narrowly, ended in the bay. Another promenade coming from the town of Binondo ended in the lighthouse.

In the hills on the right banks of the Pasig and a short distance from the landing of the river of San Mateo was found a cavity in the skirt of a hill called the Cave of Doña Geronima. Although it was no more than 20 feet in height, it was some 15 feet deep and was finished off with a dome. Its entrance was hidden by branches and brambles. It was said that there used to be in other times steps going down to greater depths. No one knew who started the construction, but there were many stories of enchantments.

Belonging to the province of Manila but in the territory of the barrio of Balete, a dependency of the town of San Mateo, there was a famous grotto of the same name. Northeast of this town, some two leagues and a half away, were found the mountains called Pamitinan and Sablayan where a major river passed between enormous masses of white marble. The famous cave of San Mateo was found on the left mountain whose entrance faced the north and in territory belonging to Hacienda de Payatas. The mountain was some 600 to 700 feet in elevation. The road leading to the cave was somewhat difficult, ascending some 30 *varas* (1 vara=.84 meters). Its entrance formed an irregular arch covered by vines and other plants, dazzling when the sun hit it, emphasizing the white of the marble and the green of the vegetation as the light penetrated the entrance for the initial 30 *varas*. From that point on, a smoky torch was needed, which made breathing difficult. A straight and tall wall rose like a great façade ending in a hollow like a small chapel. The path was wide but full of boulders and on its walls and ceilings were stalactites and stalagmites, some forming pyramids, arches and picturesque domes.

A lane leading to a room parallel to the main chamber continued some 50 fathoms until it opened again into the main path. It continued into a space like a small doorless salon. On the left was another small room where a small arroyo discharged currents of crystalline waters that flowed in various directions. The air here was crisper. Footsteps echoed loudly as if the pavement were hollow. A great number of small bats were awakened and fluttered around, while some of great size hung from the walls or between the stalactites with one wing. In arroyos that crossed the grotto swam small shrimps and little fish.

A whole mountain of white marble gleaming in the sun was one of the most notable things found in the Philippines. During the rainy season, huge pieces of this rock disengaged from the main wall and were collected to produce lime.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

The ultimate 'Gloriagate'

LAST June 15, the INQUIRER ran the news story titled "RP gets WB grant in fight vs corruption."

The story's lead read as follows: "The World Bank yesterday announced a $300,000 loan grant to the Philippines to help clean up the government, perceived by business to be among the most corrupt in Asia." Really? Is the World Bank really interested in fighting corruption in this country?

During the Aquino administration, the World Bank arm-twisted the government to honor the loan granted by Westinghouse to the Marcos administration for the construction of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). The World Bank did this although Westinghouse paid Herminio Disini $17 million to clinch the project. Until now we are paying more than $150,000 a day to service the loan. In other words, the World Bank sanctioned the Westinghouse deal although it was obtained through corruption.

In 2001, under the Arroyo administration, the World Bank was ecstatic when, in exchange for a loan of $800 million, the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) was enacted. According to party-list Representatives Renato Magtubo and Etta Rosales, members of Congress were bribed P500,000 each to rush Epira's enactment.

Epira exempts transnational corporations from the constitutional provision limiting foreign participation in the power industry to only 40 percent, thus retroactively legalizing the so-called independent power producers (IPPs) which own 100 percent of power-generating plants in this country, in violation of the Constitution. Worse, up to now, these IPPs are paid by the National Power Corp. at the expense of power consumers for "ungenerated" and/or "undelivered" power.

Above all, it is not true, as claimed by the World Bank, that the fight against corruption is the "key to the overall development agenda of the country." The real key is the elimination of the onerous neocolonial debt conditions imposed by the World Bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, upon our country. These debt conditions are the true impediments to our people's liberation from poverty, indignity and injustice, not corruption. In fact, what destabilizes the Arroyo administration is not the current uproar over the tape and *jueteng*, now popularly called "Gloriagate," but the oppressive World Bank-IMF debt conditions. Ms Arroyo's unexcelled subservience to these conditions, as manifested by her imposition of new tax burdens upon us, is the ultimate Gloriagate.

Is the $300,000 loan a World Bank investment to keep the Filipino people's focus away from the real problem?

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
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A Cinderella home run for GMA

I IMAGINE President Macapagal-Arroyo looking out of a window in Malacañang, facing the Pasig River and listening to the melancholic tune of an R. Kelly song, "If I Could Turn Back The Hands of Time." She wishes it were Dec. 30, 2002 all over again when she declared in Baguio that she would not run for the 2004 presidential elections.

If she had made good on that promise, she would have been spared of all the mess she is now in—the scandals involving the immediate members of her family; her helplessness vis-à-vis the corrupt military and police forces which she cannot discipline because she relies on them to keep her in power; the Watergate-like tape allegations; and her rock-bottom popularity.

She has five more years to go, and the embarrassment of being deposed like her predecessor looms larger daily with the mounting problems that are weighing down on her sinking ship. She wishes she were not in this predicament. She, with all her university degrees (on economics, especially)—a Gulliver compared to the Lilliputian Joseph Estrada in terms of educational attainment—has failed to improve the economy and to learn from the mistakes of her predecessor. She wishes, perhaps, that she were not President. But for her arrogance, she may have started to realize that she is a failure. She may be wondering, "What would those people she had lashed with her sharp tongue say to her now?"

If she had any guts, she would go after all the crooks in and out of government, no matter who got hurt. She would take the wind from the sails of her critics by going after tax evaders, smugglers, corrupt civilian and military personnel in government, drug and gambling lords with the full force of the law, and fire all the bootlickers around her, before all hell breaks loose and burns her in the furious flames of infamy and disgrace. Time is fast running out, Ms President. Make a Cinderella home run before the 11th hour.

—RAMON MAYUGA,
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EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.

No deregulation

THIS is in reaction to the three-part special report titled "New Pacific War" (PDI, 5/15-17/05) on the collapse of Pacific Plans Inc.

It is not true that the tuition rates of schools, colleges and universities have been deregulated. Permit me to elaborate. Batasan Pambansa 232 (Education Act of 1982, specifically Section 42 thereof) has not repealed Presidential Decree 451 ("Authorizing the Secretary of Education and Culture to Regulate the Imposition of Tuition and Other School Fees, Repealing Republic Act No. 6139 and for Other Purposes").

Section 1 of PD 451 authorizes the secretary of education and culture "to regulate the imposition of tuition and other school fees or charges by any and all private schools as defined under Act Numbered Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Six, as amended. No changes in the rate of tuition or other school fees or charges shall be effective without the prior approval of the Secretary of Education and Culture. New school fees or charges to be imposed by new or existing schools, whether for new courses or other matters, shall be at such reasonable rates as may be determined by the Secretary of Education and Culture based on the standard of such school."

Section 3 of the same PD subjects that authority to the condition that "any such increase shall in no case exceed fifteen (15%) per centum of the rates charged during the preceding school year."

On the other hand, Section 42 of BP 232 provides that "The rates and charges adopted by schools pursuant to this provision shall be collectible, and their application or use authorized, subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports."

There is no indication that BP 232 eliminates the power vested on the education secretary by PD 451. The Supreme Court declared, in the case of Lina vs. Cariño (221 SCRA 515), it did not find that Section 42 of BP 232 grants private schools unlimited power to fix the tuition and other school fees and charges that they desire to impose upon students. The Supreme Court said that BP 232, far from authorizing a private school to adopt any level of tuition and other school fees or charges, mandates that the rates and charges adopted by schools be subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the education department (the Commission on Higher Education for tertiary schools). The Supreme Court also noted that the 15-percent ceiling on the school rates has not yet been repealed.

—ULPIANO P. SARMIENTO III,
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The question isn't who we want for President

REFERRING to Solita Monsod's June 17 column ("GMA's options"), at least for me, there is no way to accept any rationalization of the alleged cheating in the elections by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It is immaterial whether she won by a slim margin or by a million votes. That she did speak with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano is disturbing. And if the two of them conspired to subvert the sovereign will of the Filipino people, then I cannot consider her to be still the President.

It is ironic that her desire to have a strong mandate has in fact weakened the presidency and the very institutions our democracy is built on. Perhaps this analogy on the alleged electoral fraud will make things clearer, and I base this on Monsod's argument.

What would you do with a student who is set to graduate salutatorian but is found out to have cheated so she could become the valedictorian, by changing her grades with the assistance of a professor and the board of trustees in your school? And now the school's alumni are pressuring you to look the other way. At the same time, your fellow professors and students are calling for her expulsion.

But instead of being forthright, the presumptive valedictorian tries to ruin those who are against her, despite the fact that the evidence on her cheating is overwhelming.

What would you do? (a) Would you still make her graduate with honors? (b) Would you allow her to graduate at all? (c) Or would you just pass her and tell her not to attend the graduation ceremony? It seems to me there can only be one solution to the problem. It is, regrettably that she not be allowed to graduate.

It is no longer a question of who we want for president. It is now a question of what is right and what is wrong. I hope and pray our countrymen see it this way.

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US to send team to watch ARMM polls

COTABATO CITY—The United States will be sending a team to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to observe the conduct of the regional elections in August.

Scott Bellard, acting deputy chief of mission of the US Embassy in Manila, said it was not their intention to interfere or get in the way of the regional elections.

"We simply hope that the presence of US and other international observers will inject credibility into the process and create confidence among the voters, candidates, and electoral workers," Bellard said.

Various groups, including those in the opposition, has called on international groups to monitor the elections in the wake of the scandal that has rocked the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

"At its best, effective monitoring not only works to keep an election free and fair, and to uncover problems where they exist, but it also helps inspire the electorate's confidence in the results once the votes are cast and counted," he said.

Bellard said they were looking forward to working with other groups "as guardians of the democratic process."

"We are very proud to support the government's efforts for the upcoming polls. This is not just because voter education is too big a job for Comelec do on its own. It is also because civil society is uniquely situated to reach the grass roots of society and to offer its own important perspective as a complement to (Comelec's) outreach efforts," he said in a statement.

Bellard said a free, fair, clean, and credible elections, including in the ARMM, makes democracy thrive.

The ARMM covers the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Marawi City.

During the elections, voters will choose a regional governor, vice governor and members of the Regional Legislative Assembly. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Drilon seeks Comelec, Army, PNP revamp in ARMM

SENATE President Franklin Drilon, also head of the Liberal Party, yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to replace military and police commanders in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) who have shown partiality for certain candidates running for posts in the ARMM elections on Aug. 8.

In a statement, Drilon said these military and police commanders should be replaced with "fresh and impartial officers who can ensure that the Aug. 8 elections will be credible, orderly, peaceful and honest."

In a letter to Abalos dated June 29, Drilon sought the immediate relief of Army Brig. Gen. Agustin Dimaala, commanding general of the Army's 6th Infantry Division; Col. Jerry Jalandoni, commanding officer of the Army's 603rd Brigade, and the Philippine National Police Maguindanao provincial director, Senior Supt. Mediro Mambatao, and Lanao del Sur PNP provincial director Senior Supt. Hamerodin Hamdag.

Drilon said LP gubernatorial candidate Datu Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas and his running mate Hatta Dimaporo have complained to him that the said officers were perceived by ARMM residents to be partial in favor of a certain candidate.

Drilon also urged Abalos to overhaul the Comelec office in ARMM, noting that the Comelec chief's recent order suspending top ARMM poll officials for alleged involvement in past irregularities was being ignored.

"This is to express my alarm over reports indicating that your recent order to suspend ARMM Comelec officials who were implicated in the controversial wiretapped phone conversations never took effect and was allegedly made for media's consumption only," Drilon said.

"Reports have it that no less than ARMM Comelec Regional Director Renato Mabugay, who is supposed to be suspended per your order, recently called a meeting of Comelec personnel and announced that the pronouncement you made was for media purposes only," added Drilon.

Baguio execs challenge gov't control of John Hay

TEACHER Julie Corpuz and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Zenaida Brigitte Hamada-Pawid reunite with the rest of the John Hay Alternative Coalition to review the impact of their suit against BCDA which nullified all tax benefits of BCDA ecozones.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—Baguio officials are challenging the control of the the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) over Camp John Hay, as they marked on Friday the 14th anniversary of its turnover to the Philippines by the United States.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon said he planned to contest the Camp John Hay title that was granted to BCDA, arguing that "the Philippine government has more right over the vast woodland inside John Hay's 600-hectare reservation than a mere government agency."

Both Yaranon and Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan have also taken independent steps to protect an agreement with BCDA that compels the agency to abide by 19 conditions in administering the privatization of the former American rest and recreation facility.

Domogan and BCDA officials confirmed on June 28 that the BCDA was preparing to nullify this agreement, which gave the city government much higher shares from rent earned from John Hay developers.

The 19 conditions also prevent BCDA from introducing a Baguio Casino and other adult entertainment projects inside John Hay.

Providing the officials extra leverage against BCDA is a Supreme Court ruling in October 2003, and an affirmation in March 2005, that nullified the tax benefits enjoyed by the developers of Camp John Hay.

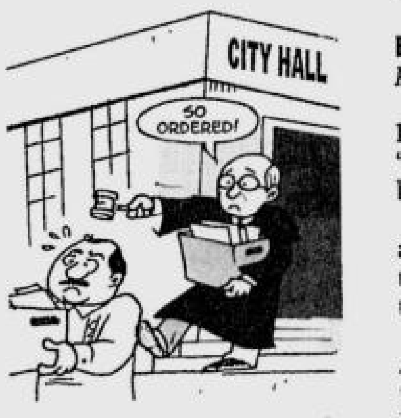
The high court nullified the tax benefits of other BCDA-administered economic zones like the former Clark Air Base because it also ruled that the law creating the Subic Bay Freeport did not grant future economic zones the same incentives.

Yaranon belongs to the John Hay Alternative Coalition (JHAC), a loose lobby group composed of Baguio old families, teachers, students, religious leaders and environmentalists.

The SC ruling addressed the JHAC suit, which challenged Presidential Proclamation 420 that created the John Hay special economic zone in 1994.

Yaranon said he was wary of new legislative measures intended to correct the flaws in the BCDA law that were uncovered by the high court. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Court orders eviction of Naga City offices



NAGA CITY—A regional trial court here has ordered the eviction of the Naga City local government unit (LGU) out of the Naga City Hall compound, which it had been occupying since 1954.

The five-hectare property belonged to the heirs of Don Macario Mariano, co-owner of the City Heights Subdivision where the compound is located.

In a 27-page decision dated June 20, RTC Branch 26 Judge Felimon B. Montenegro ordered the LGU to immediately stay out of the place or pay the rental.

The rental was set at P2.5 million per month at P50 per square meter beginning Nov. 30, 2003, the date the Mariano heirs made the demand to vacate the property and gave notice they would collect the rental.

"While preparing this decision, it pains the undersigned considering that as an occupant of the Halls of Justice, he will be one of those who will be affected by this decision," Montenegro said.

Among the offices to be affected by the demand to vacate the property are the Hall of Justice, Land Transportation Office, Provincial Prosecutor's Office, Philippine Postal Corp. and the regional office of National Bureau of Investigation.

Nelson Legacion, Naga City legal officer, said they filed a motion for reconsideration on Monday at Montenegro's sala and will submit a motion to inhibit on Tuesday.

He said they were not convinced with the decision of the judge and wanted him to stay away from the case.

Danilo D. Mariano, estate administrator, said the Naga City LGU had claimed ownership of the property on the basis of a deed of donation supposedly signed by the LGU representatives and owners of the City Heights Subdivision, Don Macario Mariano and Don Jose Jimenez.

But Mariano said he and the other siblings knew that the signing of the deed of donation never happened until their grandfather, Don Macario, took back his pledge to donate the property to the LGU.

Don Macario died on Dec. 2, 1971. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Reports persist illegal gambling alive in Lingayen

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—EZ 2, "loteng" or "jueteng." Which of these numbers game is being played in Pangasinan?

Provincial Administrator Virgilio Solis has asked the provincial police to verify reports that the illegal numbers game jueteng has returned in this province.

"I reminded him of the order of Gov. Victor Agbayani to stop illegal gambling activities in the province and he (Supt. Alan Purisima, Pangasinan police director) said 'yes.'" Solis told reporters.

Purisima admitted that there were attempts to restore jueteng in Binmaley town "but these were immediately quelled." He said EZ 2, a game based on lotto winning numbers, is being played in Binmaley and some other towns.

But a report of Calasiao police showed that a 70-year-old man was arrested last Wednesday while he was collecting bets supposedly for the illegal game loteng, which is also based on lotto numbers.

Loteng has operators to which bets are handed over by collectors who go around the villages collecting bets.

When reporters informed Purisima about the arrest of the bet collector, he said he was not aware of the report yet.

"*Sino ang nakahuli? Sino ang nahuli? Saan* (Who was arrested? Who made the arrest? Where?)" he asked.

A Calasiao policeman said the arrested bet collector had told him that the bets were being taken to San Carlos City. "He won't say where in San Carlos," the policeman added.

An illegal gambling case has been filed against the bet collector.

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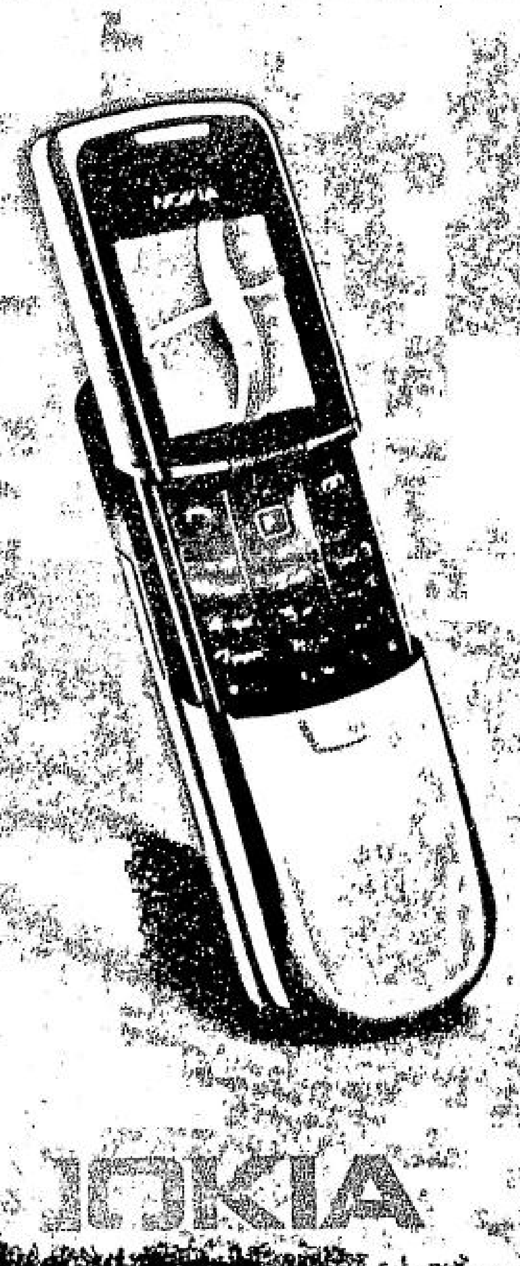

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TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SIMULATION Philippine Air Force men rappel down from a Huey helicopter in a simulation of an antiterror operation at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City.

LGUs stick to GMA; bishop warns against drastic moves

LEADERS of the 1.5 million strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) passed a resolution yesterday vowing to supplant efforts to bring down the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The resolution, sent to newspaper offices, was signed by Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson (Lakas), Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz (NPC), Antique Gov. Sally Perez (Liberal), Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol (Lihok-Mindanao), Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone (LDP) and Zamboanga del Norte Gov. Rolando Yebes (PDSP).

A statement from Ulap quoted Singson as saying he does not believe Ms Arroyo cheated in the 2004 elections and that attacks on the President were confined to Metro Manila and do not reflect the people's view of Ms Arroyo in the provinces.

The other governors who signed the resolution were Ben Loong (Sulu), Wahab Akbar (Basilan), Sadikul Sahali (Tawi-Tawi), Aleem Bashier Manalao (Lanao Sur), Melchor Borromeo (Benguet), Erico Aumentado (Bohol), Niel Tupaz (Iloilo), Rosette Lerias (Southern Leyte), Joseph Maranon (Negros Occidental,) and Edward Plaza (Agusan Sur).

Mayors Braulio Yaranon (Baguio), Luis Biel II (Isabela City), Mel Senen Sarmiento (Calbayog City) and Jerry Trenas (Iloilo City) also signed the resolution.

"Resignation is out of the question," said the Ulap statement.

It quoted Akbar as saying Ms Arroyo won in Basilan without cheating.

"We condemn these allegations," he said.

Earlier, Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra appealed to people not to take drastic actions in the wake of Ms Arroyo's admission that she called an election official during the canvassing in last year's elections.

"We should think of what is good for the country and not jump into actions that will complicate and make things worse," he said.

"We should not take drastic steps. We should pray for cooler heads to come up with the right actions for the good of our country," he added.

Navarra said actress Susan Roces was entitled to her views when she joined calls for the President's resignation.

He said Roces could not be blamed for her statements because "she was personally affected."

But Navarra said the Filipino people should "look at the whole thing from a macro or wider point of view and not be dictated by emotions and personal feelings."

The Bacolod bishop said the people should accept the apology extended by President Arroyo for calling the election commissioner, which she described as a "lapse of judgment" on her part.

But he said the implications of her actions will have to be determined carefully by experts in civil law. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Underground group backs Susan tirades vs GMA

LUCENA CITY—An underground workers' group, the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino, said the "angry but frank speech" of Susan Roces is the antidote to the "rehearsed and phony address" of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The militant workers and poor should take up the challenge issued by Susan Roces that should the people start an uprising, she would follow; that if somebody will start it, she would finish it. Vigorous protests must be launched that will lead to an uprising to oust the GMA regime," Patricio Ramirez, PMP spokesperson, said in a statement.

The PMP is an underground labor group founded by the late Filemon "Ka Popoy" Lagman, one of the communist rebels who challenged the leadership of Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison, now in exile in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

The PMP said they understood the reasons Roces, the widow of defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., did not directly issue a call for people power to oust GMA.

"But unlike Susan Roces, the revolutionary movement does not have its hands tied. The party calls on its revolutionary forces and mass base to issue forcefully and without equivocation the call for a revolution not just to oust the GMA regime but also to overhaul the rotten system," Ramirez said.

Roces has demanded President Arroyo's resignation and rejected her apology, following the President's admission that she had spoken with an election official during the counting of votes in the 2004 elections.

However, Roces debunked calls for her to lead the opposition, saying she did not want to engage in politics.

But she said she would leave her fate to the people.

The PMP also called for the installation of a transitional revolutionary government after the ouster of Ms Arroyo through a people's uprising. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

5 robbers killed

CAUAYAN CITY—Five men were killed in a 15-minute gunfight with the police on Sunday in Barangay Marabulig Uno here, two hours after they failed to rob a bus. Senior Supt. Percival Barba, Isabela police director, said the Manila-bound Dagupan bus was cruising along the national highway in Barangay Minante Uno here when five armed men announced a holdup at 11:30 p.m. One of the suspects, who fought with bus driver Rolando Gomez, was pinned to death when the bus turned turtle. His four companions fled to Barangay Marabulig where Cauayan policemen put up a checkpoint and engaged them in a 15-minute gunfire, killing the four instantly. Gomez and 10 injured passengers were taken to the Cauayan District Hospital.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Military awards

LUCENA CITY—Eight active soldiers and reservists received awards from the Army's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here. In a simple ceremony here recently, Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, Solcom commander, pinned the Gold Cross Medal on SSgt. Edisson Rural, team leader of the 1st Masbate Citizens Auxiliary Force Geographical Unit. Cabuay pinned Bronze Cross Medals on Col. Arnulfo Ylanan, commanding officer of the 902nd Infantry Brigade based in Camarines Norte; Lt. Col. Nilo Perfecto, (Field Artillery) commanding officer of the 42nd Infantry (Tagapagtanggol) Battalion, and Lt. Alejandro Tanud-Tanud, (Infantry), also of the same battalion; Maj. Jose Bautista Jr. (Reserve-Army), Solcom volunteer legal officer, and Capt. Rolando Escalona Jr. (Judge Advocate General Service). He gave the Military Merit Medal to Capt. Efren Abayari (Ordnance Service-Army) and the command plaque to Army Sgt. Romeo Pilart (Reserve).

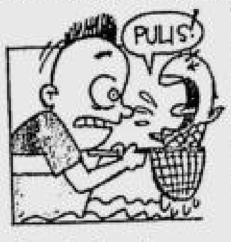
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 rob accountant's home

LUCENA CITY—Two unidentified persons robbed the house of an accountant in Barangay Bagong Silang, Perez, Quezon on Thursday and took with them cash, jewelry and cell phones worth about P100,000. Police said that while the victim, Rosario Marilou Manzano, 37, was brushing her teeth, the bonnet-wearing suspects forcibly entered the back door and at gunpoint ordered the victim and her housemaids to lie flat on the floor. After ransacking the house of valuables, the robbers managed to drink liquor inside the house and brought the remaining cooked crabs for bar chow in their escape.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 fishermen arrested



VICTORIA, Laguna—Police have arrested three suspects caught fishing illegally in Laguna Lake in the vicinity of Victoria town. A police report identified the suspects as Ronald J. De Leon, 28; Edgar C. Cruz, 24; and Norman B. Alfonso, 30, all residents of Barangay Aplaya, Pila, Laguna. Confiscated from them were a fishing net and a fishing boat used in the illegal fishing activity.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cotabato councilor, son killed

ALEOSAN, North Cotabato—Unidentified gunmen killed a councilor here and his son during an ambush Monday morning, Mayor Loreto Cabaya said yesterday. Cabaya said Councilor Taha Ungkay, 36, was driving his 11-year-old son Nasrudin to school on a motorcycle, along with a bodyguard, when waylaid by unidentified suspects in Sitio Mampurok, Barangay Dualing. He said Ungkay was hit in the chest and in the head. "The bullets that hit the town councilor also hit his son and his bodyguard, Tato Sandigan," Cabaya said. Sandigan, who was wounded in the face, managed to return fire.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

30 shanties burned

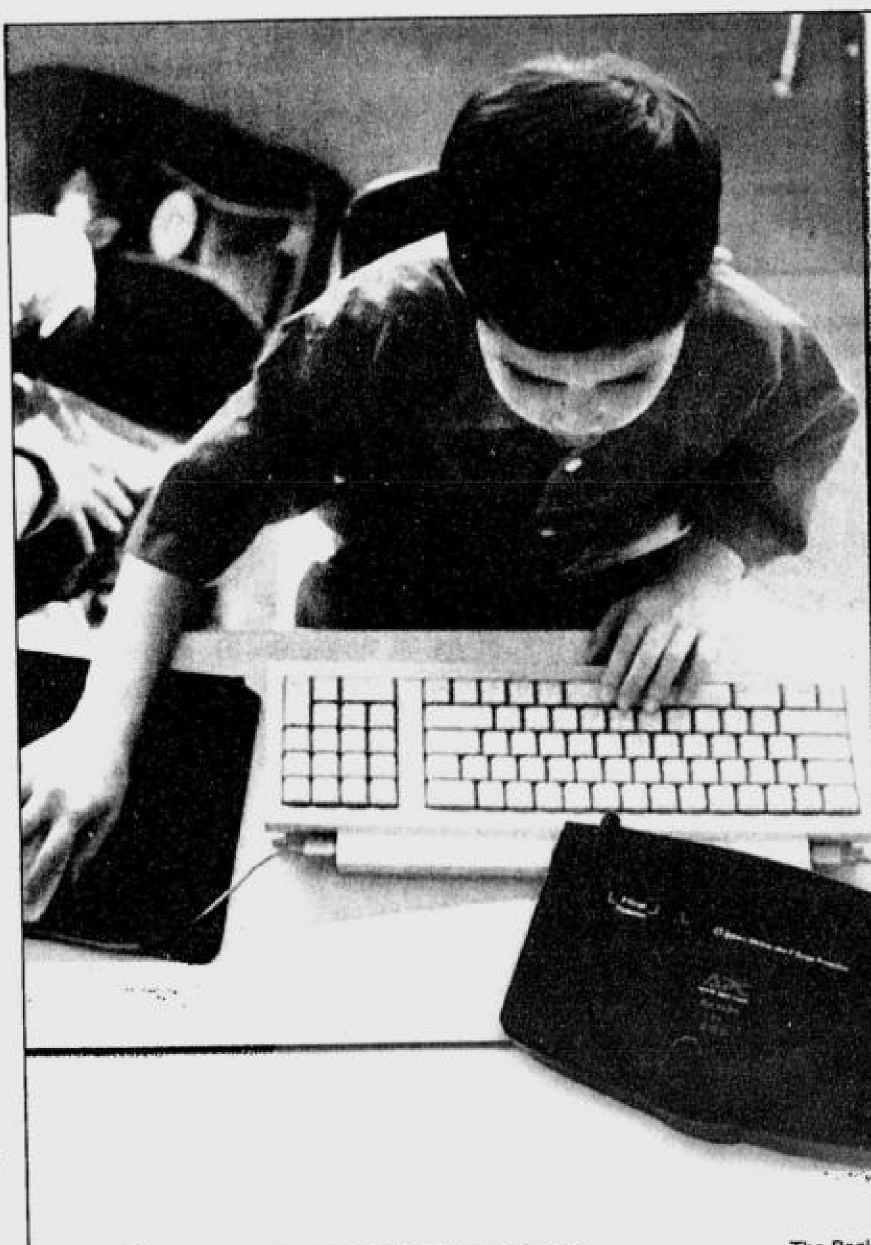
BIÑAN, Laguna—The fire that burned 30 houses made of light materials in Barangay Sto. Domingo in this town at about 2 p.m. on June 19 started inside the room wherein three children were reportedly locked up by their father who was working at that time. No one died in the incident, according to Biñan police.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

E. Loreto; 73

TACLOBAN CITY—Former Leyte Rep. Eriberto Loreto died on June 21 after a year of battling with cancer of the lymph node. He was 73. His remains were brought to his hometown in Baybay on Monday, six days after he died at St. Luke's Hospital in Manila. Loreto is survived by his wife Aida and 10 children, including former Rep. Catalina Loreto-Go of Leyte's fifth district. Leyte Rep. Remedios Petilla of the first district said her brother will be buried at about 9 a.m. today at the Catholic cemetery in Baybay. The Baybay municipal government under Mayor Jose Carlos Cari, Loreto's nephew, held a necrological service on Thursday for the late congressman who served as Baybay mayor for 16 years during the time of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Joey A. Gableta, PDI Visayas Bureau



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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Tata's gallant fight

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

SHE WAITED for her eldest brother to arrive so that her family would be complete. Then 12-year-old Kristine Mae "Tata" Guillamas returned home to her Creator.

Tata gave up the fight against complications brought about by Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), a cyanotic type of heart disease, at about 2:10 a.m. of June 30, in the company of her parents and 10 siblings at their home at No. 30 Democracia St., Jaro District, Iloilo City.

Tata gave a slow goodbye, closing her eyes at about 6 a.m. of June 29, after a great gasp for breath followed by body tremors that rendered her immobile. She was also running a fever of 38 degrees.

Family members lay her on the bed and waited for 24-year-old Karl Anthony, the eldest Guillamas son, to arrive from Palawan.

Her mother Jocelyn said her eighth child slightly moved her two hands when Karl arrived past 6 p.m. of June 29. That was her last body movement. And Karl never left her bedside until his sister died.

Chronicles

Tata was the subject of two stories in the INQUIRER Visayas (March 12, 2005 and May 14, 2005), chronicling her battle with TOF in the midst of grave financial problems and trials where she gave hope to her family to hold on and look towards a better future.

Tata slowly wasted away from TOF that consists of four anomalies. But the most important was the hole in the wall, separating the right and left ventricle, and a markedly reduced blood flow to the lungs because of an obstruction in the pulmonary valve or artery that overworked her heart, making her breathe rapidly and turn blue.

She was diagnosed with TOF when she was 7 months old and needed surgical intervention to correct the ailment.

But the daily struggle of feeding and clothing 11 children so overwhelmed the now unemployed Guillamas couple, who used to be into fish brokerage, that they left everything to God's will.

By the time Tata turned 11, it was too late to do any surgical interventions.

All doctors specializing in pediatrics and cardiology that the family approached had only one prognosis: supportive therapy through medications because she ran the huge risk of dying while being operated on.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Kristine Mae "Tata" Guillamas succumbed to a heart disease on June 30 after a long fight that began when she was 7 months old.

JOHN MICHAEL P. AVELINO/CONTRIBUTOR

Dr. Doris Mendoza, a pediatric cardiologist who diagnosed Tata, advised her family to "add life to her remaining years."

Readers' kindness

This was made possible through the help of INQUIRER readers who donated more than P100,000 for Tata's medicine, food and last two hospitalizations on April 1-8 and from April 28 to May 5.

Other readers gave groceries and toys.

"Please tell the INQUIRER's readers that my heart is overflowing with gratitude for their help and prayers," said Jocelyn, who keeps in a small notebook more than 70 cell phone numbers of INQUIRER readers who responded to her child's plight.

When she could still speak, Tata asked elder sister Christine Joy, 23, what it was like to die. Her constant caretaker replied: "It's just like going to sleep."

"*Ah, amo man lang na gali. Pahuway na ko, nakapoy na gid ko* (Oh, it's just like that. I'm going to rest, I'm so tired)," said Tata, who was by then sitting on the floor and propping her head with a small chair.

Days before she died, Tata had two requests. One was for her family members to visit her grave often. The other was that her hair should be in braids when she is laid to rest.

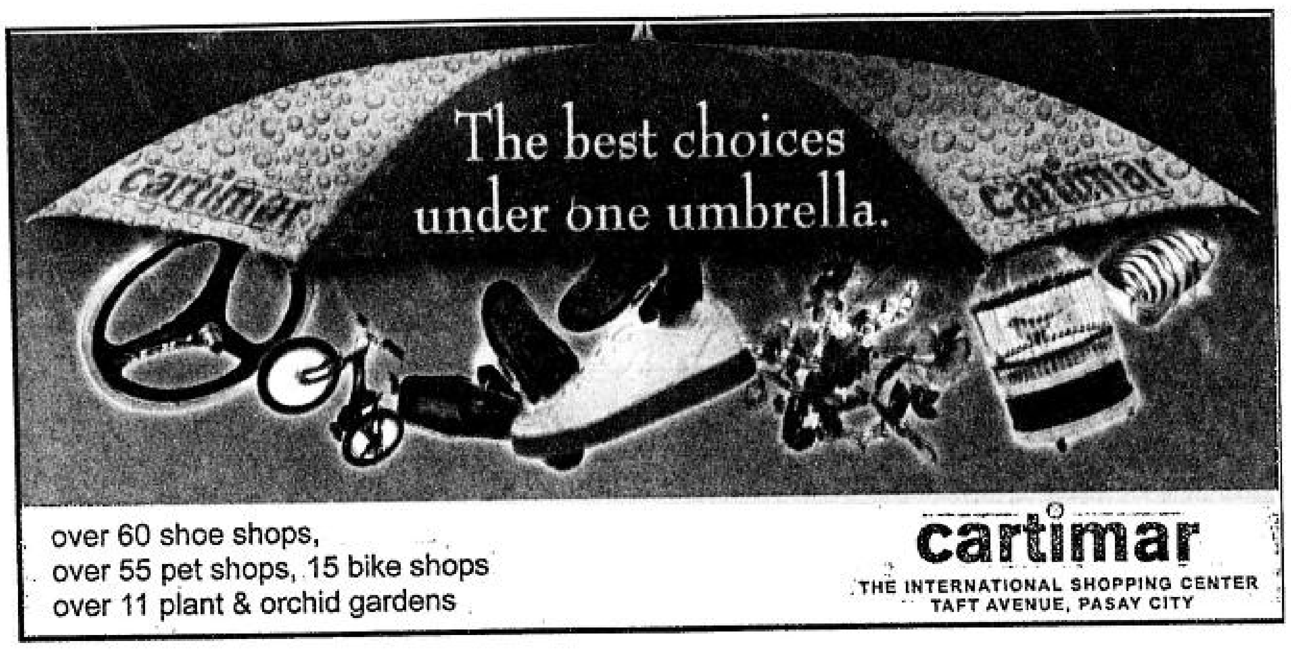
Tata will be sent to her final resting place at the Jaro Public Cemetery.

Although overwhelmed with great grief, Jocelyn smiled wanly when she recounted that two weeks before her daughter died.

She said regular-sized white and aqua blue butterflies hovered in and out of Tata's bedroom that was surrounded with greenery.

Jocelyn gently told her daughter, "They are fetching you."

Jocelyn Guillamas may be contacted through cell phone No. 0919-8103979



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TV GUIDE
Saturday, July 2, 2005

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20 years after the biggest performers in the world gathered to "feed the world" on Live Aid, a monumental concert is set to happen in London, Rome, Paris, Berlin and Philadelphia to call on world leaders at the coming G8 Summit to end poverty globally!
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ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginig: The Hidden Files		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Kapamilya Movie Sabado			Kontrobersyal (11.45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Anime Ring Kasho				Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Mating Mali		Maverick & Ariel	Herman		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9				Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Billiards				Deadbolt				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Navy Medicine At War	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop		Shakey's V-League				Btag		In This Corner			
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filler	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Snick: Unfabulous(New)/All Grown Up/ My Dad The Rock Star Drake & Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Mobile MYX Top Picks	Club MYX	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Studio 23								Sports TV		Survivor		The Bachelorette		Gilmore Girls	Studio 23 Present				Real Deal
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Star World		Totally Outrageous Behavior	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise				Secrets Of Physics Revealed				The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	Global Office	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
National Geographic		Pharaoh's Week				Flying Devils		Creature Feature				Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Wild Horizons	Big Bite Nite			
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	Fine Living Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
HBO			Coming To America (3.45 PM)				The Truth About Charlie (5.45 PM)				Sinbad: Legend Of The Seven Seas (7.35 PM)			Ned Kelly				Catch Me If You Can (10:50PM)	
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	The Good, The Bad & Huckleberry Hound				Gransazer #1	Batman The Animated Series	Justice League	Fantastic Four	Swat Kats
ESPN							Major League Baseball						2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship				2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship		
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Dinosaur			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Aladdin And The King Of Thieves	
Cinemax	1dead Easy			Batteries Not Included (4.15PM)				A Few Good Men				The Making Of Battlestar Galactica (8.15 PM)		Battlestar Galactica The Mini Series Part 1			The Hunt For Red October (10.35PM)		
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		We Built This City		Extreme Machines		First Time Film Makers		Wild Discovery				The New Detectives		Mummy Autopsy		True Horror	
MTV Philippines			Carmen & Dave	Whatever Things	Making the Video: Don't Phunk with My Honey	MTV Urban Beats	Dismissed	Room Raiders	Taildaters	One Bad Trip	Punk'D	MTV Hits						MTV Live: Pearl Jam at Madison Square Garden (Part 1)	
Sports Plus	Commerce Bank C'ship Day1					Porsche Round 3	Porsche rnd. 4	Dodge/Save Mart 500 Highlights		BD Acapulco	Tour De France	World's Greatest Auto Shows		The Search TV.	Get A Grip	Tour De France	Cialis Western Open Day2		

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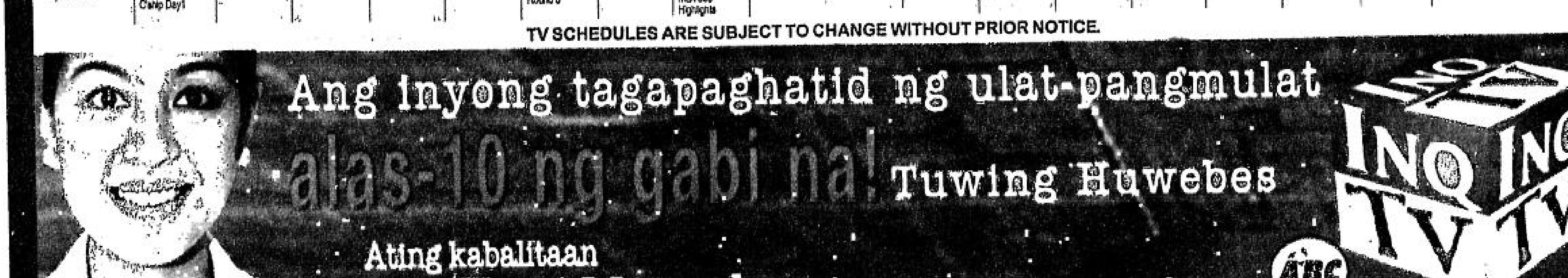

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METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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NLEX charges motorists new rates; SLEX hike deferred for 1 week

By Clarissa S. Batino

TOLL rates have gone up by 10 percent along the North Luzon Expressway and the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road. At the South Luzon Expressway, meanwhile, collection of the value-added tax (VAT) has been deferred for one more week.

The Philippine National Construction Corp. yesterday said it postponed collecting the VAT along the SLEX and the Skyway to give motorists time to adjust to the higher rates.

PNCC spokesperson Cheche Chavez said the agency had not decided the exact date when it would start charging the VAT. "It would probably be July 7 at the latest," she said.

The SLEX takes in about 200,000 vehicles a day. About 60 percent of Luzon's produce passes through the SLEX for delivery to nearby provinces.

From Magallanes to Calamba, the new rates for using the SLEX are P84 for Class 1 (from P76); P167 for Class 2 (from P151), and P250 for Class 3 (from P227).

Cars and other light vehicles belong to Class 1. Class 2 includes light trucks and buses, while heavy trucks are under Class 3.

Along the elevated portion of the Skyway stretching from Buendia to Bicutan, the new rates are P94 for Class 1, up from P85; P187 for Class 2, from P170, and P281 for Class 3, from P255.

The new tolls along the Coastal Road are P17 for Class 1, from P15; P33 for Class 2, from P30, and P50 for Class 3, from P45.

As for the NLEX, the new rates are P223 for Class 1, from P203; P557 for Class 2, from P507, and P669 for Class 3, from P609.

The newly upgraded NLEX, now operated by the Manila North Tollways Corp., had just increased its toll early this year. The highway stretches from Balintawak, Quezon City, to Sta. Ines, Pampanga.

The fees from Balintawak to North Bocaue are P46 for Class 1, from P42; P116 for Class 2, from P106, and P139 for Class 3, from P127. This portion of the NLEX is classified as an open highway, which imposes a flat toll fee.

The Skyway and the Coastal Road are also open highways.

The stretch from South Bocaue to Sta. Ines is a closed highway, just like the SLEX. When passing through closed highways, motorists pay a toll for every kilometer traveled.

Vendors see price increase

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and Nancy C. Carvajal

PRICES of basic commodities remained stable yesterday but vendors in different public markets in Metro Manila said an increase in prices was expected.

"There is a possibility that prices will go up because our dealers also spend for gasoline," said Nonoy, 40, a meat vendor at the Pasig City Public Market.

Gasoline prices increased by as much as P3 yesterday as the expanded value-added tax law took effect.

The new tax law also raised toll fees at the North and South Luzon expressways, where trucks bringing produce from the provinces to Metro Manila pass.

No price change

As of yesterday, there were no changes in the prices of basic commodities sold at the Pasig City Public Market.

Beef remained at P190 per kilo, pork at P140, and chicken at P90-95.

The price of *galunggong* ranged from P70 to P80 per kilo, *bangus* from P70 to P100, while *tilapia* remained at P70 per kilo.

A bundle of string beans could be bought for P10, a kilo of tomatoes for P40, while a kilo of potatoes sold for P30. *Kangkong* was at P5 per bundle while a kilo of eggplant was at P30.

Rice at P20 per kilo

The cheapest rice cost P20 per kilo, while the most expensive variety was at P28 per kilo.

Nonoy said that should their suppliers raise their prices, the vendors would have no choice but to pass it on to consumers.

Fish vendors in Malabon and Navotas said they were more worried about the buying capability of consumers.

"Supply and demand dictates our prices," said Nenita Sabando. "Instead of buying a kilo of fish, they would now buy less so they could afford other necessities."

Fiscal junks sex raps vs Willie

LAZY AFTERNOON REM ZAMORA
Two pedicab drivers play checkers along a street in Intramuros while waiting for passengers.

By DJ Yap

WILLIE Revillame can heave a sigh of relief—for now.

The Quezon City prosecutor has dismissed the acts of lasciviousness case lodged by a tabloid editor against the TV host-comedian for lack of probable cause.

In a five-page resolution, prosecutor Corazon Romano said she found no convincing evidence to sustain the charges filed by Ma. Salvacion Asis, who accused Revillame of making inappropriate sexual advances on her in March 2002.

She said the evidence failed to establish that an act of lewdness "using force or intimidation" was committed. The apology card purportedly sent to Asis by Revillame in contrition for the incident was only "proof of good faith and sans malice," Romano said.

Revillame's lawyer Dexter Lacuanan said he and his client were very happy about the decision, but added that they took no delight in the pain it might have caused the complainant.

Asis, entertainment editor of Pilipino Star Ngayon and Pang Masa, said the fight was not over.

Her lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan said they were considering filing a motion for reconsideration or bringing the case to a higher authority, such as the justice department.

"[Romano] acted as the prosecutor and judge at the same time. She was there merely to determine whether or not the case merits a trial," Alentajan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

He added, "There are matters that need to be threshed out only during the trial, not during the preliminary investigation."

Alentajan questioned the "undue haste" in the release of a copy of the resolution to media.

As of yesterday afternoon, Alentajan said Asis had not yet received a copy of the resolution.

"It is the duty of the court official to furnish copies of the resolution to both parties before releasing it to the press," he said.

A staff member of the records section at the Quezon City Hall of Justice said the resolution was mailed to the involved parties the other day.

Lacuanan said he himself was still waiting for his copy, adding that such resolutions were public record.

The resolution was approved by first assistant city prosecutor Meynardo Bautista Jr.

Man linked to Dos Palmas kidnap freed

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and Jocelyn R. Uy

FREEDOM came for Muhamadiya Hamja after staying almost four years in jail.

Hamja was accused of being a member of the Abu Sayyaf group that kidnapped 20 people from the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort in Honda Bay, Palawan, on May 27, 2001.

But the other day, Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge Lorifel Lacap Pahimna ordered his release from the Metro Manila District Jail in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

Hamja's lawyer, Pura Calleja, filed a Demurrer to Evidence last week, claiming that based on the evidence and witnesses the prosecution had presented, none had pointed to Hamja's involvement in the crime. The Pasig City RTC Branch 69 granted the Demurrer to Evidence and dismissed the charges against Hamja.

Based on court documents, kidnapping and serious illegal detention with ransom charges had been filed against nearly 90 men suspected to be Abu Sayyaf members linked to the case.

Hamja's detention took long because of his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of teachers and students in Tumahubong and Sinangcapan, Basilan, on March 20, 2000, said Calleja. Hamja was also cleared of the charge.

QC printer charged for 'Valentina' posters

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has charged the owner of the printing press that allegedly mass-produced posters depicting President Macapagal-Arroyo as comic book villain "Valentina."

Charges of unlawful publication have been filed before the Quezon City Prosecutors Office against Michael Fitzgerald Agbayani Ligot of All Ways Graphics and Printing Services.

NBI Interpol operatives raided the printing press at 74-A Molave St., Proj. 3, Quezon City, on June 20 and seized bundles of the posters, as well as plates, microfilm, computers and a scanner.

Also charged was Noel Lopez of the Freedom from Debt Coalition who reportedly placed the order for the posters.

Ligot and Lopez were charged with violating Sections 1 and 4 of Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code, or for the unlawful use of means of publication and unlawful utterances.

Violators of the law include "any person who by means of printing, lithography or any other means of publication shall publish or cause to be published as news any false news which may endanger the public order, or cause damage to the interest or credit of the State." *DJ Yap and Margaux C. Ortiz*

Antipoverty rally takes off in Makati

SAYING poverty can end in our lifetime, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)-Philippines held its White Band Day yesterday, and urged government and world leaders to take decisive action on debt, trade, development aid and governance to wipe out poverty.

The GCAP-Philippines rally, dubbed "People's Summit: Alternative to G8 Summit," was held on Ayala Avenue in Makati City's central business district.

The rally was the first highlight of GCAP and GCAP-Philippines' antipoverty White Band Campaign.

The other White Band Days are on Sept. 10 and Dec. 10, in time for the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York City and the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong.

Similar rallies were held in London, Philadelphia, Paris, Berlin, Rome and Ontario, led by Paul McCartney, Elton John and Madonna.

Messenger, 2 suspects killed in pawnshop rob

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A MESSENGER for a pawnshop was shot dead by three men shortly after he collected money from the shop's various branches in Parañaque City.

Bienvenido Comingha, 48, had just alighted from his motorcycle at 9:13 a.m. in front of the Isidro Gan Pawnshop in Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque City, when three men armed with handguns shot him several times in the body, said Parañaque City Police Chief Supt. Ronald Estilles.

The three men, who were identified as Efren Balena, Buboy del Monte and Catalino Pasada Jr., then took the victim's knapsack which contained his collections for the day, and fled on foot toward the Silverio Compound in the same barangay.

The knapsack contained P152,000 and $4,100.

Police caught up with the suspects in the compound. A gun battle followed after the suspects started firing at police, leaving Balena and Del Monte dead.

A barangay watchman was also hurt in the shooting incident.

Balena was identified through an identification card found on him, Estilles said.

Comingha was rushed to the Olivarez General Hospital in Parañaque City, but was declared dead on arrival.

Pasada, who suffered a lone gunshot wound in his left palm, is now under the custody of Parañaque police. He is facing charges of robbery with homicide, illegal possession of firearms, frustrated homicide and direct assault upon agents or persons in authority.

Police recovered assorted firearms from the three suspects.

Estilles said the men could be part of a gang that pulled off heists in the city last year.

"They had the same modus operandi, where they first shoot the victim at close range before running off with the money," he added.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Vidal Querol lauded the Parañaque City police for their quick response to the robbery.

More corruption stories

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

YOU WANT to know how corrupt our military is? Read on.

A friend of mine is in the business of re-manufacturing military jeeps and other vehicles used and discarded by the Japanese military.

The re-manufactured jeeps are as good as when they came out of the factory in Japan. The Japanese military used them inside the camps for only two years and discarded them later.

I told my friend to offer his re-manufactured jeeps to the Armed Forces because all its vehicles are already rundown. I said it would be patriotic to do that. He agreed.

My friend offered the jeeps to the AFP at practically a giveaway price.

A Lt. Col. Larry Lagnada was sent to take a look at the vehicles at my friend's shop in Cavite.

Lagnada said that if the AFP would buy the jeeps, he would naturally have to give "commissions" to some generals (he mentioned one who is retiring in August). My friend said no way, because that would mean increasing the price of the jeeps.

"*Mura na nga ang bigay ko, hinihingan pa ako. Di ako pumayag* (I'm selling them cheap, yet they're asking for bribes so I said no)," my friend told me.

Then Lagnada came back. Yes, the Armed Forces would buy all the jeeps—more than 40 units—but was asking for time to scrounge around for funds.

Meanwhile, could my friend lend the colonel his Land Cruiser and Mitsubishi L-300 van because a general and a politician was going to use them?

It's been many months now and Lagnada has yet to return the Land Cruiser and the L-300 van he borrowed from my friend.

"Is that the way our military deals with civilians, Mon?" my friend asked.

* * *

I made a background check on Lagnada and found this information about him.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1984, Lagnada was chief of a sensitive office within the Logistics Command (Logcom), now disbanded. He was relieved when Gen. Angelo Reyes took over as AFP chief of staff.

The cause of his relief was corruption. While with the Logcom, he and his classmate, a Lt. Col. Sera, who was assigned with J-4, put up a company manufacturing supplies for troops in the field. He resisted his relief, and had a politician intervene in the case. But his relief pushed through.

Lagnada's wife was also a partner of several suppliers dealing with the Logcom when he was still with the defunct unit.

Lagnada transferred to the Army's G-4 as systems management bureau chief during the time of Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos. When he was there, his wife sold medical equipment and medicines to the Army hospital.

When Gregorio Camiling was Army chief, Lagnada and his wife reportedly made a killing making deals with the Army. Camiling is the Lagnadas' wedding sponsor. Military intelligence reports at the time said that Lagnada personally brought purchase orders for his wife to Camiling.

But Camiling had had enough of Lagnada's activities and kicked him out of Army G-4. He was able to get an assignment to J-4 and was later allegedly involved in a multimillion-peso irregular procurement of ponchos. Gen. Narciso Abaya relieved him. He was reinstated with a powerful politician's help.

Lagnada has been bragging that he is under the protective wing of a Mindanao politician. In fact, he told friends in the military he shared part of the fruits of his corruption at J-4 with this politician.

The information I gathered about Lagnada comes from military intelligence.

* * *

My program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo," has distributed copies of a videotape of a TV episode about the abuses committed by Cagayan lawyer Victor I. Padilla.

Padilla had been harassing Cagayan farmers who had been tilling land in a government-owned forest reserve with the permission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

But Padilla claims the land the farmers are tilling is his, using his and his family's influence. He's married to a Quezon City judge and his mother is a provincial board member.

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TENNIS: Wimbledon-Day 11 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r-6 p.m.); Men's Singles Semifinals; 10:30 a.m. (r); Ladies Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles Finals; 10:30 p.m.; STAR Sports—The year's third grand slam event nears its end.

BILLIARDS: 2005 World Pool Championship; 8:30 p.m.; ESPN—The world's best cue masters gather in Kaohsiung for Day One action.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

JENNIFER Rosales hugs Angela Stanford after defeating the American, 1-up, Thursday in the HSBC World Match Play. AFP

WORLD MATCH PLAY

Rosales, Delasin gain 2nd round

GLADSTONE, New Jersey—The Philippines' Jennifer Rosales and Dorothy Delasin advanced to the second round after contrasting victories Thursday in the HSBC World Match Play Championship.

Rosales, ranked 21st, defeated No. 44 Angela Stanford via a close 1-up victory and set up a second-round clash with veteran and 53rd seed Beth Daniel.

Delasin upset No. 24 Heather Bowie with a convincing 3-and-2 triumph. Delasin, ranked 41st, next faces AJ Eathorne, the No. 56 seed who upset No. 9 Catriona Matthew over 21 holes.

Top seed Annika Sorenstam overcame an early deficit to beat Joanne Morley, 2-and-1.

After Morley birdied the par-3 seventh to take the lead, Sorenstam squared the match with a birdie on the par-4 eighth. Sorenstam pulled ahead with a par on the par-4 13th and increased her margin to two holes with a 10-foot birdie on the par-4 15th.

"Match play is so different," Sorenstam said. "In match play, you only have 18 holes, and sometimes not that many."

The Swede will face No. 32 Tina Barrett—a 5-and-3 winner over Young Kim—in the next round. The tournament will then turn into an endurance test with the third round and quarterfinals set for Saturday and the semifinals and final Sunday on Hamilton Farm's Highlands Course.

Second seed Cristie Kerr also advanced, beating Lindsey Wright, 2-and-1. Kerr, the Michelob Ultra Open winner last month, will next face Liselotte Neumann. Neumann beat Moira Dunn, 4-and-3.

Third seed Lorena Ochoa dropped out, falling 2-and-1 to No. 62 Laurie Rinker.

Fifth seed Natalie Gulbis and the sixth seed Birdie Kim also were eliminated on the 18th hole.

Fourth seed Paula Creamer beat Maria Hjorth, 4-and-3, to set up a match against the slumping Karrie Webb. *AP*

Beermen buck Asi's return, take Game 1

By June Navarro

SAN MIGUEL Beer shrugged off Asi Taulava's return and took Game 1 of the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference Finals with a 74-66 win over Talk 'N Text at the Araneta Coliseum last night.

Ace Custis scored 22 points and grabbed 16 rebounds while Danny Ildefonso added 14 points as the Beermen stayed sharp throughout to gain headway in the best-of-seven championship series.

Taulava, who got the green light from the league to see action in the Finals, was hardly a factor for the Phone Pals, banging in eight points and pulling down five boards but had three turnovers in his first official game after being suspended for nine months.

"They are still trying to adjust with Asi," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico. "He played limited minutes but we expect Talk 'N Text to work on its offense with Asi around for Sunday's game."

Meanwhile, with rumors that it is putting up its 20-year-old franchise for sale, Shell came out and capped a big season with a resounding 102-86 victory over Red Bull to claim third place.

"This is a good consolation for us with respect to the status of the team," said Shell coach Leo Austria, after handing Shell its sixth third-place finish in franchise history.

"This game might make a difference."

The Turbo Chargers are bound to meet with the Shell management next week at the earliest to determine the fate of the team.

Jerald Honeycutt, Willie Miller and Jimmy Alapag were also visibly not in their elements after forcing and missing most of their attempts from the field.

"If we sustain the kind of defense that we threw on them, we have a good chance," said Uichico.

Taulava sat the entire first period and was fielded in when the Phone Pals were trailing the Beermen, 23-14, in the opening minutes of the second quarter.

The scores:

First Game

SHELL 102—Williams 25, Yap 15, Dela Cruz 14, Tubid 13, Calaguio 11, Ferreria 8, Mamaril 8, Alvarez 6, Bajar 2, Cruz 0, Sta. Maria 0.

RED BULL 86—Barron 32, Tugade 19, Baguio 11, Gahol 6, Asaytono 4, Valenzuela 4, Ybañez 3, Robinson 3, Ejercito 2, Feihl 2.

Quarters: 30-19, 51-48, 80-69, 102-86

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 74—Custis 22, Ildefonso 14, Racela 11, Hontiveros 9, Adriano 6, Peña 6, Lopez 2, Seigle 2, Belasco 2.

TALK 'N TEXT 66—Honeycutt 15, Alapag 14, Miller 11, Taulava 8, Telan 6, Pablo 5, Belano 3, Gelig 2, Camaso 2, Carey 0, Fran 0, De Ocampo 0.

Quarters: 23-14, 37-31, 57-48, 74-66.

Sans bitterness, Asi moves on

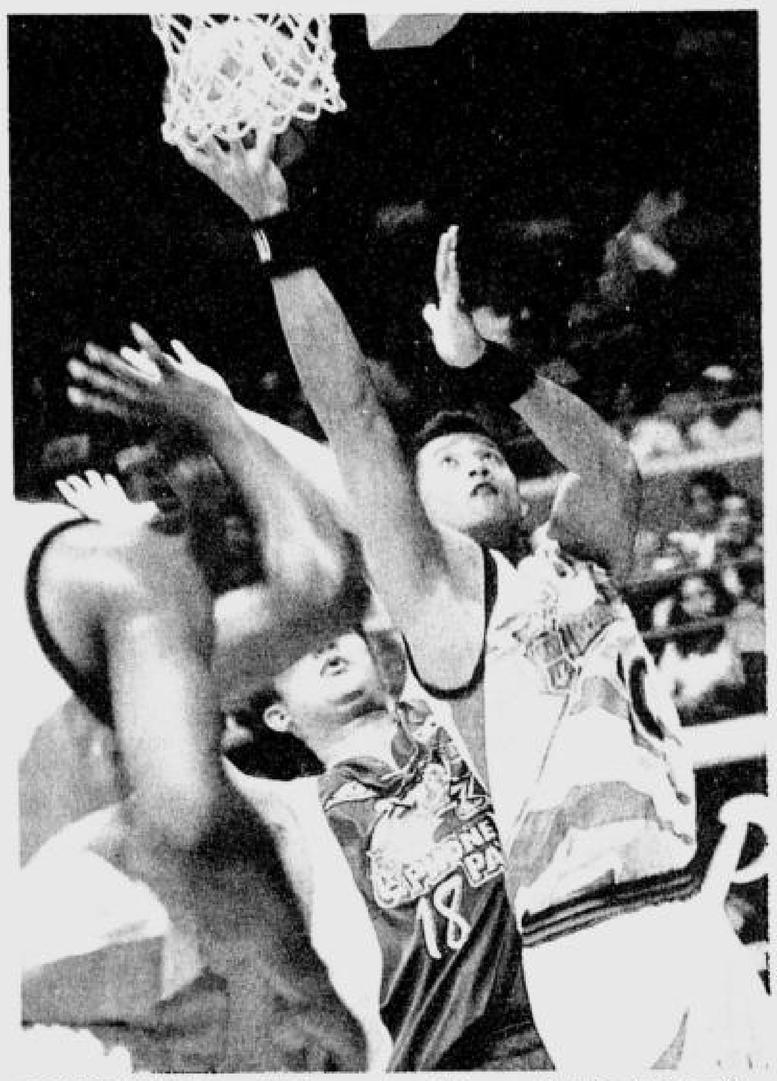
ASI TAULAVA feels that now he has a second chance at a career, he doesn't want to spend any single moment of it feeling bitter about what happened.

"Those were trying times for me and my family," the 2003 MVP admitted about his suspension. "But I will bury those things in the past and move on. I've got to start something new and hopefully this is a fresh start."

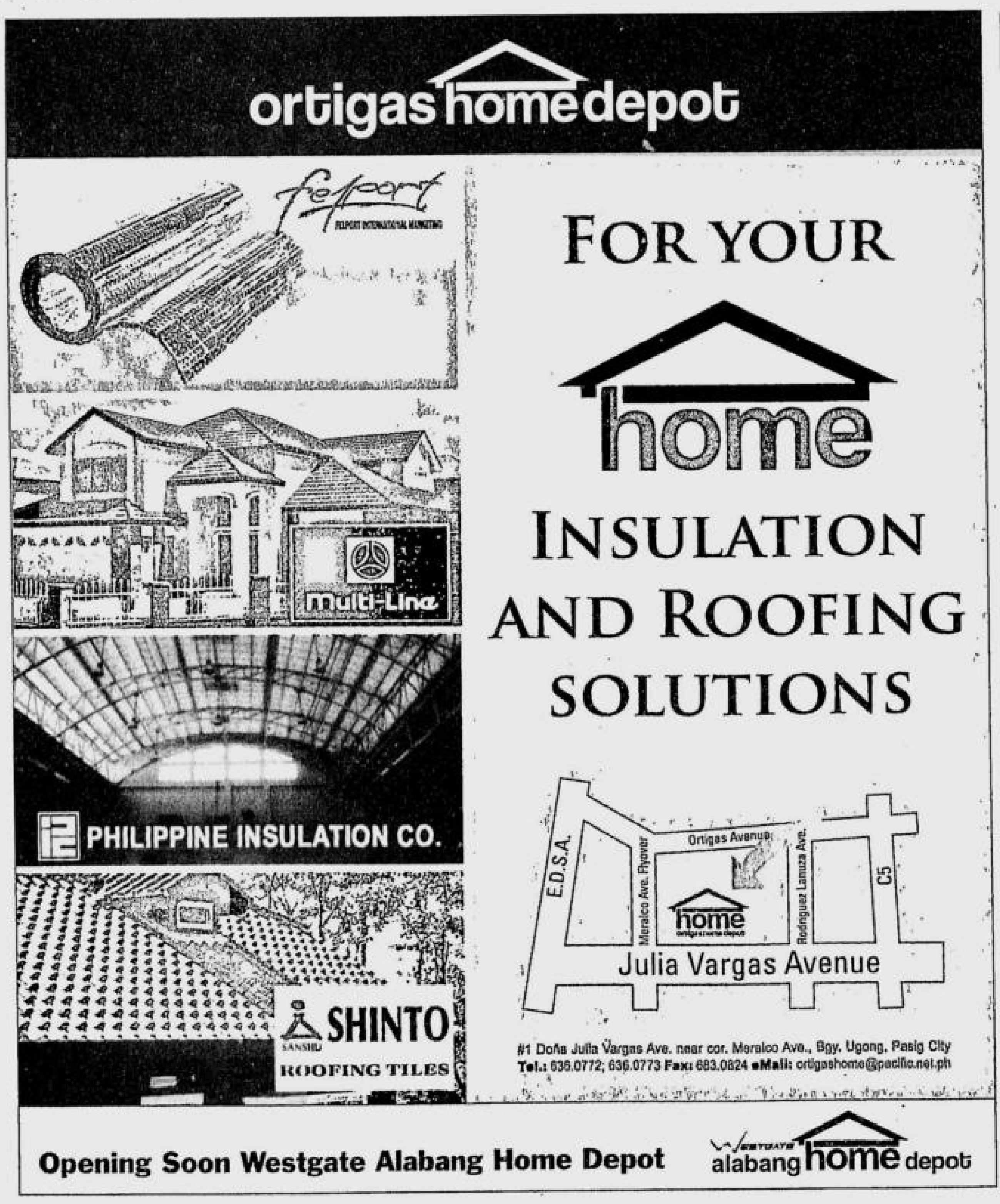
The new start began yesterday, when Taulava finally rejoined Talk 'N Text. The Tonga-bred cager said he refuses to blame anybody for what happened to him.

"I understand everything he (PBA commissioner Noli Eala) did," Taulava said. "He did it the proper way and I have no hard feelings."

"Hopefully, we could work on being friends again." *June Navarro*



SAN MIGUEL'S Danny Ildefonso puts a shot up against the defense of Talk 'N Text's Yancy de Ocampo during last night's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ



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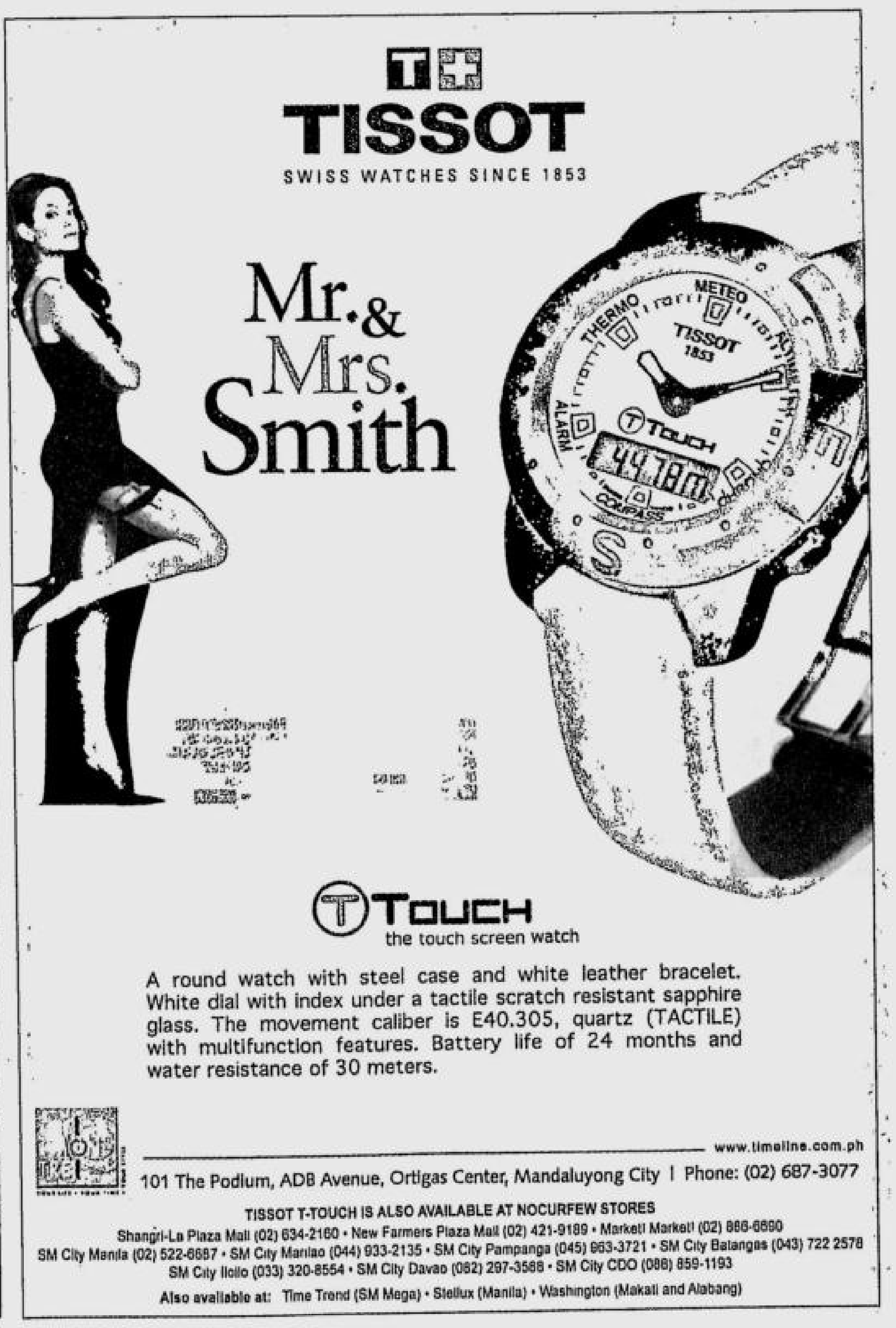

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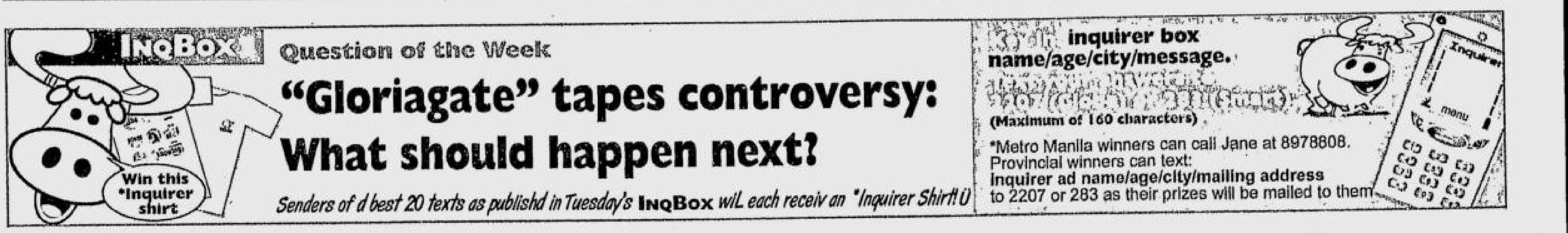
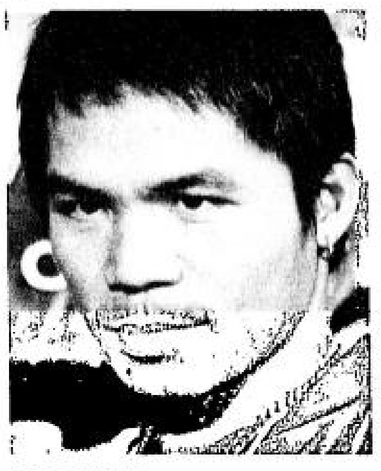


INQBOX
Question of the Week
"Gloriagate" tapes controversy: What should happen next?
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Shirt!Ü
inquirer box name/age/city/message.
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Pacquiao's US counsel wants Nazario probed

NAZARIO


PACQUIAO

By Musong R. Castillo

THE LEAD counsel of Manny Pacquiao wants the Games and Amusements Board to conduct an investigation on Rod Nazario and kick the former business manager of the Filipino ring great out of professional boxing.

"At a minimum, Rod Nazario should be banned from boxing in the Philippines," said Judd Burstein, who led a battery of lawyers in winning an out-of-court settlement for Pacquiao in New York this week.

"I don't know if criminal prosecution is available, but that would, in my opinion, also be appropriate," Burstein said in an e-mail to a Filipino journalist, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

Burstein's statement stemmed from what he alleged were "out and out lies" of Nazario, who claimed to have settled all of Pacquiao's tax obligations with the United States Internal Revenue Service.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Nazario through calls and text messages on his mobile phone yesterday.

Pacquiao, through Burstein, alleged that Nazario had entered into an agreement with US promoter Murad Muhammad in creating a company, called Philippine Boxing LLC, to embezzle a great part of the boxer's purses from US fights.

Records show it was this company which left Pacquiao accountable to the IRS, with the boxer's back taxes amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Even Murad [Muhammad]'s lawyer, in his summation, essentially admitted that Rod Nazario had cheated Manny," said Burstein in the same e-mail.

Burstein, according to Filipino boxing expert Hermie Rivera, wants to fly over to personally ask the GAB, the government body that oversees professional sports, to conduct an investigation on Nazario.

Meanwhile, John Burris, a lawyer of former Pacquiao manager Marty Elorde, will bid to recover about $200,000 in purses from Pacquiao's first six fights in the US.

Another $600,000, representing roughly 30 percent of Pacquiao's $1.75-million pay in a loss to Mexican Erik Morales, is also being lined up for recovery.

Pacquiao, now handled by a management group led by Shelly Finkel, is being lined up for a match in September.

Ateneo-La Salle grudge goes full-blast today

THE FABLED La Salle-Ateneo basketball rivalry goes full-blast today with the Fil-Oil-Flying V Ultimate Showdown featuring the legends and stars of the two schools in a two-game classic at the Araneta Coliseum.

Action starts at 1 p.m. with the Legends game featuring star players from the 1960s to the early '80s, followed by the All-Star showcasing the finest from the mid-'80s to 2004.

"After more than two decades, they play once again to determine who really is the best, at least for one whole year," said tournament chair David Dualan. "Do it or be done. Whoever wins gets a year of bragging rights."

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—Ateneo vs. La Salle Legends
3 p.m.—La Salle vs. Ateneo All Stars

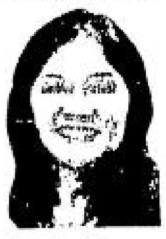
A Celebrity 2-ball shoot-out and an exhibition of the pep squads of both universities will perk up the ultimate showdown during the half-time intermission.

The event, organized by the La Salle Green Hills High School 1984 and Ateneo de Manila University College 1982 to boost the the socioeconomic projects of both institutions, is backed by Pure Play Sports Management, Concept Movers, Accel, Millennium Plans, Bank of Commerce, Gerry's Grill, Kublai's, Inihaw Circle, Sunbolt, IO KTV, Citifinancial, Globelines, Pepsi, PCSO, Max's, Immuvit, FINO Leather, Shell, Unioil, CDO and Avia.

Proceeds go to the Ateneo de Manila University Athletic Fund, De La Salle University Sports Fund, and La Salle Green Hills Alumni Association Bro. Leon Castiglione Sports Fund, the La Salle Green Hills Alumni Association Adult Night High School for the less fortunate and the Philippine National Red Cross.

How the new cage body failed to pick its head

IN HUDDLE


Beth Celis

HAD the scheduled June 23 election of officers pushed through, BCAP's Chito Narvasa would now be president of the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation.

Unknown to many, the POC group, through incorporator Moying Martelino, called for mock elections three days before the actual event, obviously to have a feel of how the actual elections would go.

The mock election was held June 20, a Monday, at POC president Peping Cojuangco's Dasmariñas residence, with all the incorporators in attendance, except for former PNP chief Gen. Edgardo Aglipay. Chairman Buddy Encarnado represented the PBA, Chito Narvasa the BCAP, JunJun Capistrano the UAAP, Father Vic Calvo the NCAA, Nic Jorge BEST, Joey Romasanta and Edgardo Aglipay the POC, Butch Maniego the PBL in lieu of Chino Trinidad, who was then in the United States, and Moying Martelino.

The exercise started with Capistrano nominating Romasanta for president and Jorge seconding the nomination. For the same position, Buddy nominated Narvasa, with Maniego seconding the motion.

* * *

The actual voting never happened. After the initial nominations, the two-fold alignment became clear: PBA, PBL, BCAP and NCAA on the one side, Romasanta, Aglipay, Martelino, Jorge and UAAP's Capistrano on the other.

The stakeholders minus UAAP could not understand why Romasanta should run for such a position when this move would certainly reek of a power grab. This they explained to him and the rest of his group.

Joey withdrew from the nomination. Chito was now the lone candidate for what appears to be a most coveted post. Technically, he ran and won unopposed.

Initially, the plan was to name the losing presidential candidate as the secretary general, but since this slot was left empty because of Romasanta's withdrawal, they all agreed to fill in all seats on the actual election day.

While they were made to believe that Romasanta, Aglipay and Martelino were allowed one vote each, the stakeholders group (minus UAAP) found out upon further inquiry that the constitution and bylaws of the PBF gave only one vote to the three.

With this information, the outcome of the projected polls was evident: 4 votes for Narvasa (PBA, PBL, NCAA and BCAP) and 3 for the opponent (BEST, UAAP and the one vote from the trio of Aglipay, Romasanta and Martelino who was earlier questioned regarding his affiliation).

After the mock elections that never was, the group agreed to hold the actual polls the following Thursday at the Tektite office of Narvasa's AYN Sports. Chito went out of his way to hire a caterer who would prepare a sumptuous *merienda* for the affair.

* * *

Backdoor negotiations started the following day. Realizing that the stakeholders group (minus the UAAP's Capistrano) now had the numbers, the POC proposed a new slate: Romasanta for chair, Capistrano for president and Narvasa for sec-gen.

Not acceptable.

More counterproposals, more crossover breakfast, lunch and dinner meetings. No go. Status quo. The PBA, PBL, NCAA and BCAP wanted Narvasa for president, Chino Trinidad for sec-gen.

A few hours before the elections, Narvasa was advised that the venue would be moved to Valle Verde for some reason. Chito had no choice but to comply, paying the caterer for the food he had ordered.

Much later, Romasanta called Maniego to say that the election has been postponed by Buddy E and would he please advise the other stakeholders of this development?

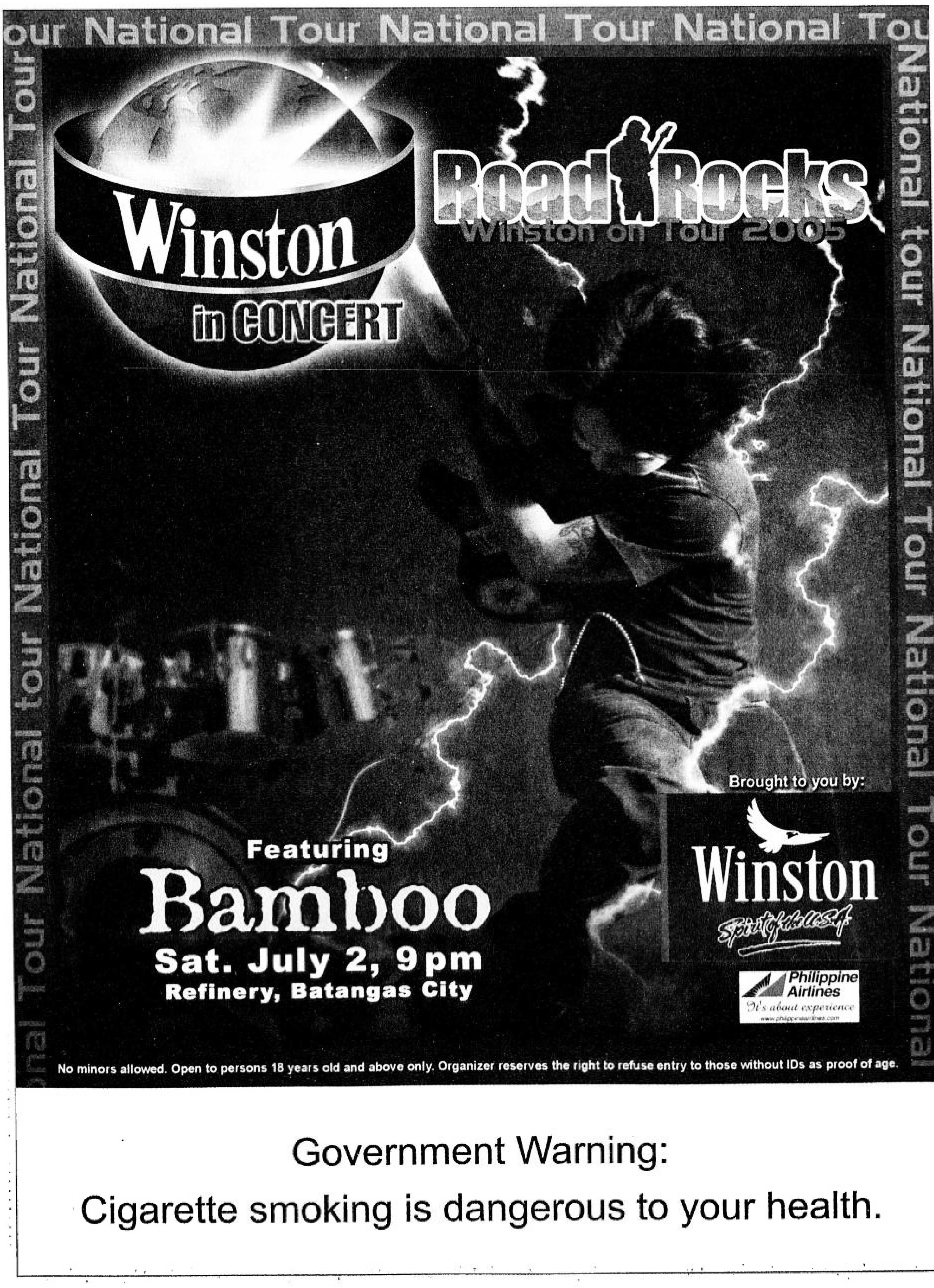
Butch smiled and assured Romasanta he would. Butch was with Buddy and Chito at that very moment. They all met early for lunch at the Tektite office of Chito where the elections would be held at 3 p.m.

Before Romasanta's call to Butch, Robert Aventajado had already rang Buddy to advise him that they were postponing the elections. The POC group absolutely had no inkling that the stakeholders were together when they made the calls advising them of the cancellation.

So far, my sources said there has been no word from the POC.

Tanguilig 4th in fourth stage

RHYAN Tanguilig drew heavily on his climbing prowess to place fourth in the tough 124.8km fourth stage Wednesday of the Tour de East Java cycling classic from Surabaya to Bromo. The 2004 Tour Pilipinas champion and lead rider of RP-Pagcor Casino team clocked 4:07.55. Iranian Ghader Mizbani won in 4:04.37. With his feat, Tanguilig moved up to 14th overall in the individual placings while lifting the Filipinos to seventh overall in the team standings (45:08.03).



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Espinas rescues Dolphins from late meltdown

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES MONDAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—SSC vs Letran (Jrs)
1 p.m.—SSC vs Letran (Srs)
3 p.m.—SBC vs St. Benilde (Jrs)
5 p.m.—SBC vs St. Benilde (Srs)

GABBY Espinas scored on a put-back with only two seconds left to lift the Philippine Christian U Dolphins past the San Sebastian Stags, 72-70, yesterday in the 81st NCAA basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"Espinas was still playing with a bum knee, but he's very athletic and he still played his best," said coach Junel Baculi after the defending champions posted their second straight win.

Jason Castro took command of PCU's offense with 18 points, while Espinas, the reigning Most Valuable Player, delivered 16 points and six rebounds.

Baculi, though, expressed disappointment with the win that came after the Dolphins blew a 58-36 advantage in the third period.

Earlier, Paolo Orbeta and rookie Martin Urra carried the St. Benilde Blazers in the final quarter for a 55-45 triumph over the University of Perpetual Help Altas.

Orbeta topscored with 14 points, while Urra shot six of his eight markers in the decisive period. Junior center Jay Sagad contributed 10 points and 19 rebounds.

PCU and St. Benilde joined Letran and Mapua on top at 2-0. Perpetual, last season's runner-up, remained winless in two games along with San Sebastian, San Beda and Jose Rizal University.

It was a double win for St. Benilde after the Greenies routed the Altalettes, 109-71, in junior play. Miguel Soller led with 20 points.

The scores:

Second Game

ST. BENILDE 55—Orbeta 14, Sagad 10, Urra 8, Porras 7, Layug 6, Manding 5, Morial 4, Robles 1, Dayrit 0, Cabatu 0.

PERPETUAL 45—Misa 12, Joe 10, Balboa 8, Racho 6, Bauzon 5, Mendoza 2, Apor 2, Manuel 0, Refuerzo 0, Manalang 0.

Quarters: 6-9, 25-18, 38-38, 55-45.

Third Game

PCU 72—Castro 18, Espinas 16, Sanz 11, Solis 7, Belga 5, Retaga 5, Salangsang 3, Garrido 3, Cecilia 2, Amparado 2, Cunanan 0, Santos 0.

SSC 70—Vicente 19, Najorda 16, Malig 11, Ballesteros 7, Santos 7, De Leon 7, Aquino 2, Delgado 1, Aguilar 0, Quiamco 0.

Quarters: 22-12, 39-27, 62-48, 72-70.

All-pro RP five ready for Seaba

By Musong R. Castillo

IF ASKED and given the go-signal, a strong Philippine basketball team made up of PBA players could fly to Malaysia on short notice to play in the Seaba tournament set to kick off Tuesday.

"We are ready, willing and able," said national coach Chot Reyes yesterday when asked if a team can be flown to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association caging in Kuala Lumpur.

Reyes made the statement less than a day after the Philippine Olympic Committee expelled the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the local Olympic body Thursday.

The POC, through president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, wrote tournament organizers yesterday asking for accommodation.

In his letter, Cojuangco explained that the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. needs to seek recognition first from the POC before going to the Fiba, which he said is a long process.

Reyes clarified that he is not volunteering his team, some of whose members also played for the RP squad that finished fifth in the Fiba Champions Cup here last month.

"If asked by the POC and given the green light by the PBA (Philippine Basketball Association) board, we have a battle-ready team that can represent the country well," Reyes said.

"We're ready to go at a second's notice."

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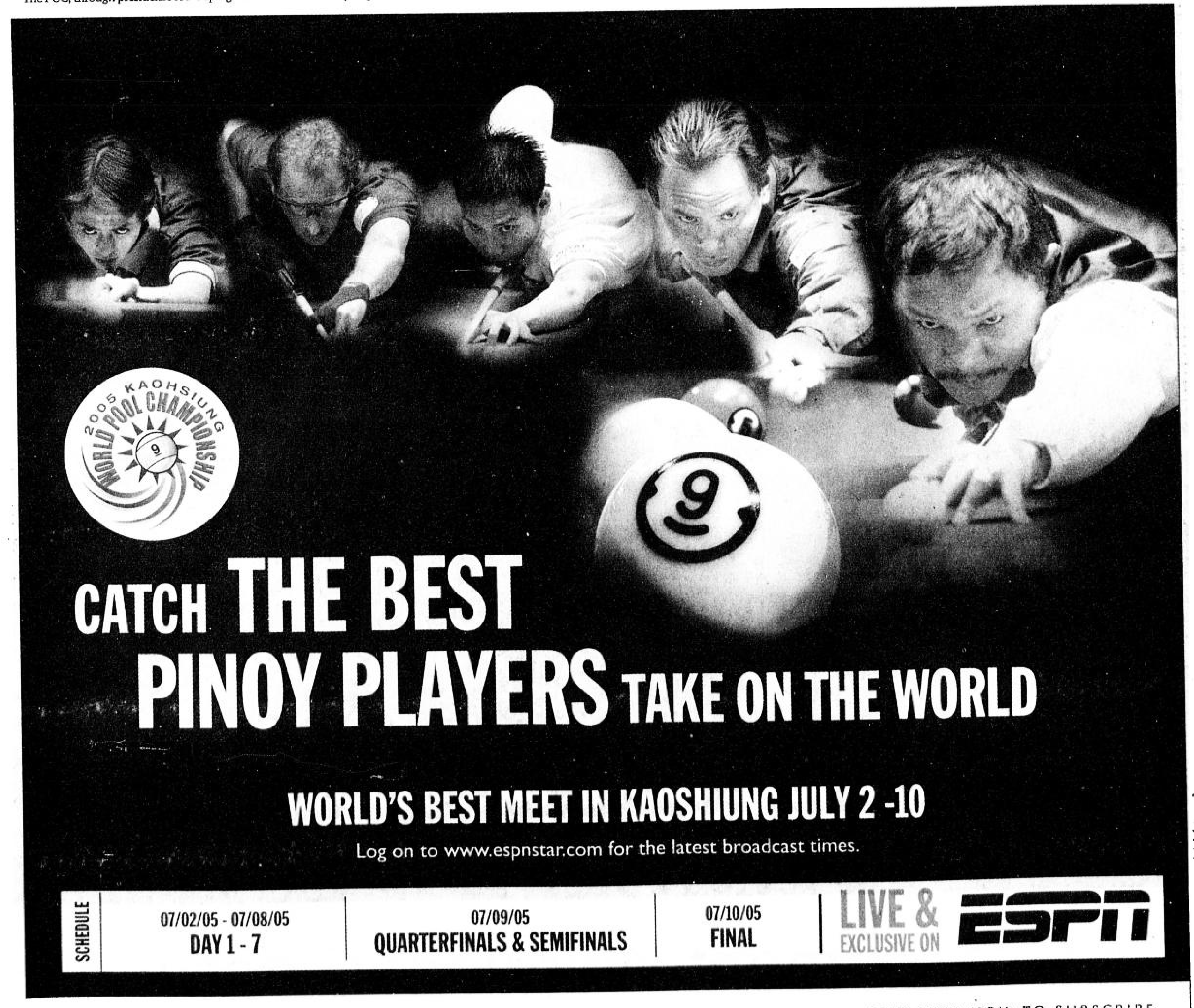

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Vinluan grabs big Samsung Amateur edge

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Don Erwin Vinluan looked poised to foil the home bets again as he stormed ahead by five strokes in the championship division despite a late double-bogey hiccup in the second leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club here.

On a day the Miñozas dominated ladies play as expected, the burly Vinluan carded a 73—a solid round marred only by a double-bogey on the 17th at the rolling course—for a 54-hole total of 216.

Of the 11 players who qualified for the final two days of play, only Vinluan is not from either Pueblo de Oro or Del Monte. Last year, national team star Juvic Pagunsan of Canlubang also beat the challenge of the local boys.

Joel Opaco was the only player to break par, a 71, and climbed to a share of second spot at 221 with Boboy Jaraula, who struggled with a 40 in the back nine for a 75.

The Miñoza ladies made up for the lackluster showing of their boys by winning two divisions in the tournament also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Eva Miñoza scored a 74 for 151 to nip Chihiro Ikeda by one for the Class A plum, while her mother Inday scored 93-181 to win by five in Class B over Marian Woo (99-186). Gloria See topped Class C, her 113-227 25 strokes better than Roslyn de Pedro.

The Miñozas, See, men's Class C winner Roger Tan, Class D champ Sonny Choi and the winners in men's Class A and Class B after today's play will advance to the national finals next year.

Meanwhile, the organizing Professional Sports Management Group announced the first ever staging of the Samsung Interscholastics championships at the Cebu Country Club on July 20-22.

Relaxed Lance ready for Tour

CHALLANS, France—Lance Armstrong sets off one last time on Saturday on the three-week journey that has made him a cycling great and if he does not expect a leisurely ride, he still hopes to enjoy his final Tour de France.

"I'm relaxed. I was nervous last year because I had the impression I was up against, not a demon, but against a hundred years in which some of the greats of cycling had not been able to win a sixth Tour and people tended to think it was not possible.

"It's a great burden to get rid of. I'm not chasing a legacy. I'm here to have a good time and enjoy my last Tour," the American told a media conference on Thursday.

The record six-time Tour champion knows he is bound to feel some nostalgia when the race hits Paris on July 24.

"I'm fully aware it's my last and I'm doing a pretty good job of still trying to win the event and cherish the last moments.

"There are moments I'm going to miss, the key intimate moments with the team which I'll never share again. Certain dinners along the way with guys that have become my best friends," he said.

But looking in the rearview mirror will not help the 32-year-old Texan win a seventh Tour.

"Every day I realize this is the last. Today I realized for example it was the last time previewing the prologue. Every finish will be special but I can't let that feeling and my emotions interfere with what I'm trying to do." *Reuters*

LANCE Armstrong undergoes a routine medical checkup. REUTERS

Pagulayan leads RP World Pool bid

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan—Defending champion Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan leads a strong Philippine bid when the 2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship opens here today.

Pagulayan will be joined by 1999 champion Efren "Bata" Reyes, former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 2005 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Manila leg winner Ronnie Alcano, Singapore leg winner Gandy Valle, Rodolfo Luat, Marlon Manalo, Dennis Orcullo, Warren Kiamco and Antonio Lining in the nine-day tournament organized by Match Room and broadcast over ESPN.

Up for grabs is a total prize of US $350,000 (P19.6 million) with $75,000 (P4.2 million) going to the champion.

"My target this year is to defend the championship. I would like to set the record of being the first player at the World Pool Championship to reach the finals in three consecutive years," said the 27-year-old Pagulayan.

ESPN will broadcast action from the opening break down to the final shot at the Kaohsiung Business Exhibition Center.

Lorenzo Manguiat

PBL players join NBC's Cavite team

DAPITAN CITY—Reinforced by three PBL veterans, the Far Eastern Insurance-backed Cavite Insurers battle the winless Zanorte Hornbills today as they begin their southern swing in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Sports and Cultural Center here.

The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and supporter Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Malikisi are favored to post their third win in seven games in the 6 p.m. contest mainly due to their acquisition of Marvin Ortiguerra, Mark Abadia and Melvin Mamaclay.

Ortiguerra saw action for PBL champion Welcoat in the recent Unity Cup while ex-Adamson Falcons Abadia and Mamaclay also had PBL stints before.

Other new Cavite recruits are Buboy Rodriguez, Ronnie Zagala and Tristan Codamon. The Insurers have retained the services of Efren Valdez, Edward Attunaga, Michael Piodo, Ricky Camanag, Marvin Aransazo and Jay Sierra.

The Hornbills of Gov. Rolando Yebes, Dapitan Mayor Dominador Jalosjos Jr. and Dipolog Mayor Roberto Uy have a 0-6 record in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Nature's Spring, Skygo Motorycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

NBC games are shown on NBN 4 at 4 p.m. every Sunday and on Prime Channel at 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. daily.

VENUS Williams leaps into the air to celebrate her en

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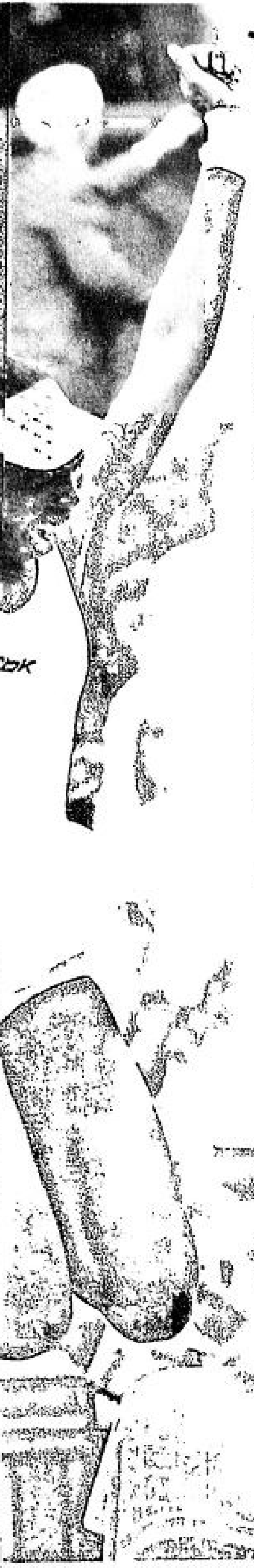
Venus back in orbit

Ends Sharapova's title defense



ry to the women's final. REUTERS

WIMBLEDON, England—Shortly after advancing to the Wimbledon final, Venus Williams heard from kid sister Serena.

"She called me to say, 'Can I have your autograph?'" Venus said with a laugh.

The family needs just one more win for its fifth Wimbledon title. Venus gleefully hopped on her favorite patch of grass after she defeated defending champion Maria Sharapova, 7-6 (2), 6-1, in the semifinals Thursday.

Looking like a two-time Wimbledon winner, Williams dominated with her serve and pounded groundstrokes into the corners to overpower an opponent unaccustomed to being on the defensive. Williams was rewarded with her first berth in a major final since Serena beat her for the 2003 Wimbledon title.

"My play has just gotten better with each opponent, and my level has raised with however my opponent was playing," Williams said. "It's satisfying, but I've always felt that I can play at this level."

Williams was forced to wait overnight for the other finalist to be determined. Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport was four points from the final, leading Amelie Mauresmo, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4), 5-3, love-15, when rain forced the suspension of their semifinal until Friday.

Even if Williams falls short Saturday in a bid for her fifth Grand Slam title, and her first since 2001, she has rebutted perceptions that she's less interested in tennis than in her interior design business or such hobbies as reading and shopping.

"I put tennis first in my life," she said. "I wake up in the morning, go to practice, go to the gym, train and give it my best effort. The other things that I do are because it makes me happy. I think it complements my tennis and also makes me work harder, because I realize it's not easy in the real world."

Her world has been complicated by a series of injuries, including shoulder and stomach ailments that hampered her serve. But in the semifinal she hit serves at up to 195 kph (121 mph) and overcame six of seven break points against her.

Sharapova, broken just once in the first five rounds, lost her serve four times.

"I don't have as big a serve as her," Sharapova said.

For the No. 2-seeded Sharapova, the loss snapped a grass-court streak of 22 consecutive victories.

The precocious Russian hasn't reached a major final since her surprising title run at Wimbledon a year ago. She still has a good chance to overtake Davenport for the No. 1 ranking during the upcoming hard-court season, but remains eager to improve.

Seeded 13th last year, Sharapova became the lowest-seeded player to win the women's championship when she beat Serena Williams in the final. At No. 14, Venus is seeded even lower and, for a change, won't have to face her sister for the title.

Venus has lost her past five Grand Slam finals, all to Serena. But two-time Wimbledon champion Serena flew home last week after being upset by Jill Craybas in the third round.

Before the semifinals, Serena offered Venus long-distance encouragement.

"Serena sent me an e-mail earlier, telling me what to do and to just stay in there and play my game and I was the best," Venus said, laughing. "I guess I took that to heart." *AP*

'I need to be bigger, stronger'

LONDON—A glassy-eyed Maria Sharapova blinked away the pain of losing her most glittering possession on Thursday, promising to return bigger and stronger next year to win it back.

The 18-year-old second seed surrendered her Wimbledon crown in a 7-6 6-1 semifinal defeat to American Venus Williams on Center Court that exposed the lanky Russian's lack of muscle.

"I'm obviously very sad," said Sharapova after her first grasscourt defeat in 23 matches. "This tournament means a lot to me, more than any other tournament. I guess there's many more years to come. It's just one of those things where you want to win, but you can't. I will do everything I can (to win it back)."

"I think I need to be stronger. The stronger I get, the bigger my serve will be, the easier it will be for me to hold serve and get more free points. But at 18, I don't think it's possible to have a huge consistent serve. I realize that and I accept it.

"I know with hard work and practice and repetition it will get bigger and stronger and more accurate."

The style-conscious Russian has attended most of her post-match news conferences in eye-catching dresses.

On Thursday, as the rain pelted down outside, Sharapova wore the air of just another beaten tennis player, slouched miserably over the microphone in her tracksuit and baseball cap. *Reuters*

MARIA Sharapova feels her current willowy figure isn't enough to dominate women's tennis. AFP

Cuba routs Thailand; Dutch win

GAMES TODAY (*PhilSports Arena*)
3 p.m.—Netherlands vs Cuba
5 p.m.—Thailand vs Italy

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EVEN though its top player Yumilka Ruiz sat out the third set, Cuba still had enough strength to crush Southeast Asia's best team, Thailand, 25-19, 25-17, 25-17, yesterday in Day 1 of the World FIVB women's volleyball Grand Prix at the PhilSports.

Cuban coach Felipe Calderon chose to experiment minus their team skipper as Cuba mostly engaged Thailand in lengthy exchanges before hammering home winners en route to the win that put the Cubans closer to the berth of the Grand Finals next month in Japan.

"We are satisfied with our game. In the first two sets we don't have control yet," said Calderon through an interpreter. "But in the third set I knew we can do it."

In the second game, Netherlands ripped Italy, 25-18, 26-17, 25-21.

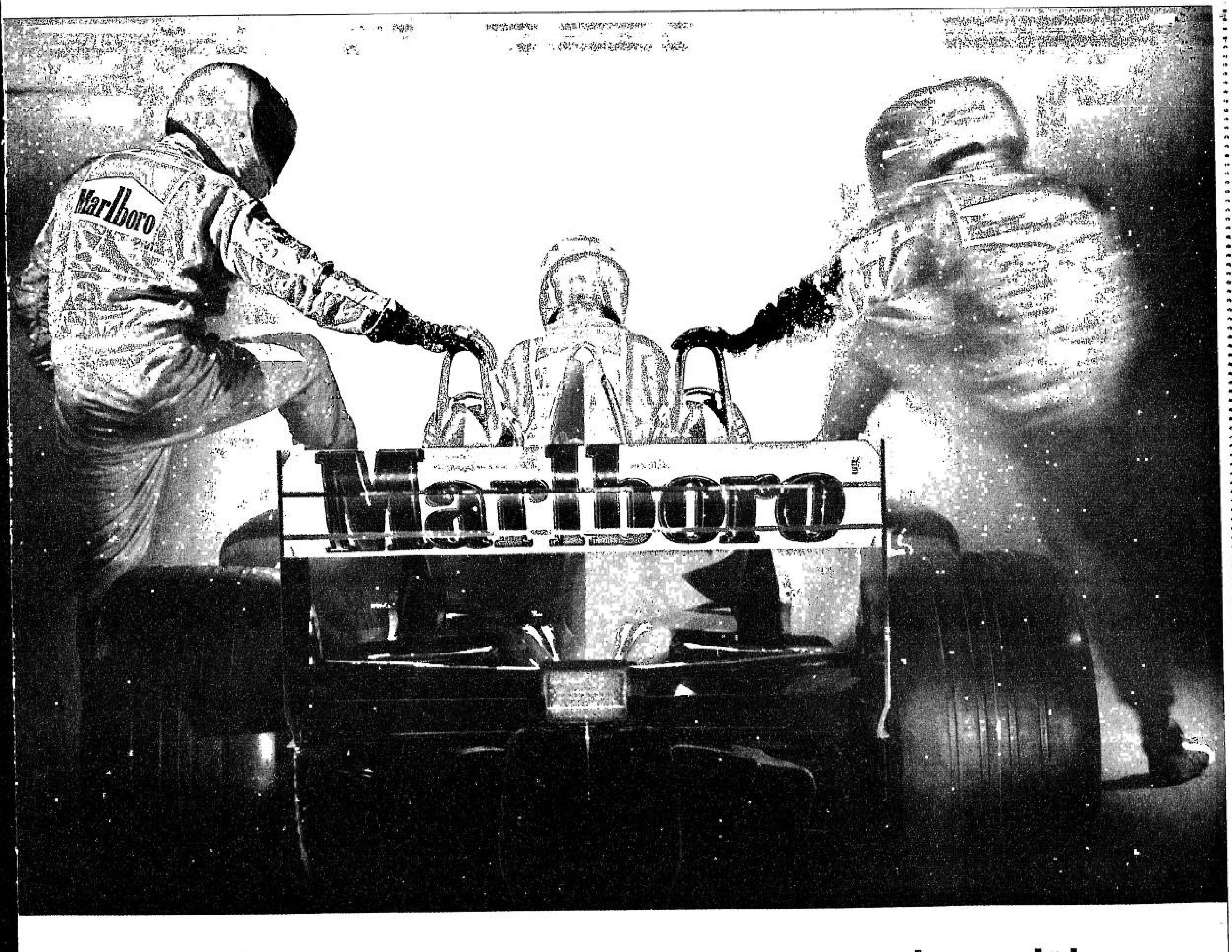
The 5-foot-11 Ruiz sat with the coaching staff discussing the game while other benchwarmers limbered up in the sidelines. They apparently couldn't find any reason to field the 27-year-old Olympian who nevertheless scored nine points, seven of them on attacks.

In her place, 19-year-old Nancy Carrillo imposed her massive 6-foot-4 presence to put the hard-fighting Thais at bay, scoring 21 points, 10 of them through smashes including the cross-court wallop that closed the match.

Carrillo was also responsible for the Cubans' 10 blocks that effectively limited the Thai's stinging attacks.

3 share Western Open lead

LEMONT, Illinois—Ben Curtis, Jim Furyk and Todd Fischer all shot bogey-free, 7-under 64s Thursday, getting within a stroke of the Cog Hill course record and sharing the lead after the first round of the Western Open. The trio were two strokes ahead of Harrison Frazar, former Western champ Robert Allenby and Chad Campbell. Fan favorite John Daly, playing his first Western since 1996, finished at 2-under 69 after almost holing his second shot on the par-4 18th. Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh didn't look like the top two players in the world. Woods shot a 2-over 73. Singh shot 72. *AP*



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Families fight for supremacy in Milo race

TACLOBAN CITY—When the Milo Marathon visits Tacloban City for its second leg tomorrow, expect two families to make the races a showdown of sorts.

Camila Luterte, who topped last year's women's 21-K elimination race, spearheads the challenge of the Lutertes who have been joining the races for years.

Her sons Gilbert and Miljone placed third and fourth, respectively, in the men's 21-K but promised to do better this year to dethrone two-time leg winner Edgar Lapasigue and runner-up Jonathan Belmonte.

Their siblings and nephews also ran in last year's 5-K run and 3-K kiddies' age-group races and finished in the top 10 of their categories which were dominated by another family, the Estacions.

Erika Estacion topped the women's 5-K while Jolexa Estacion and Elyssa Estacion won in the 6-9 year and the 10-12 year categories of the 3-K races.

Camila is expected to face little trouble retaining her regional crown for the third time in Sunday's race held in partnership with with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

Gov. Carlos Jericho L. Petilla has been invited to fire the starter's gun at 6 a.m. and to award the cash prizes and trophies to the region's qualifiers to the National Finals on Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

Poker tilt 2nd leg up

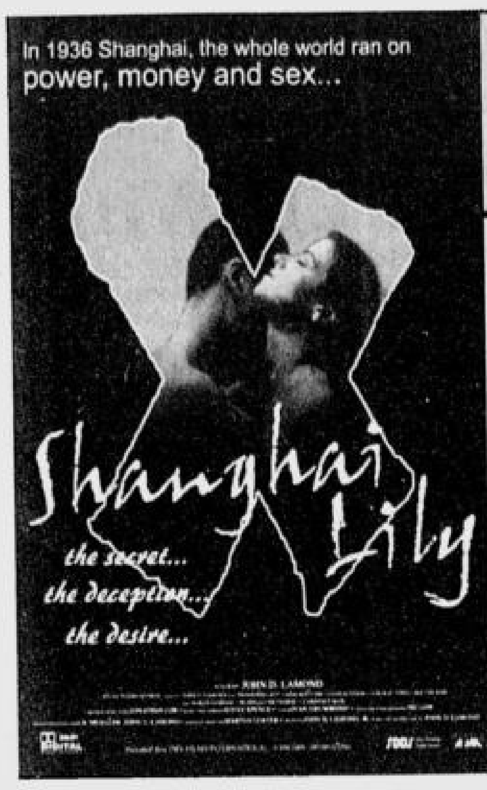
THE 2005 Poker King Challenge, a series of non-wager poker tournaments conducted by the Poker Club of the Philippines, starts its 2nd leg today at Airport Casino Filipino. Elimination games are scheduled today and tomorrow. Ray "Butch" Gamboa, Poker Club of the Philippines president, announced that 120 poker enthusiasts are expected to vie for the top three positions of the leg competition to qualify for the Poker King Grand Finals scheduled at the end of the year. For inquiries, call 8179092.

LPC derby tonight

WELL-KNOWN cockers and breeders of Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas clash anew tonight as Las Piñas Coliseum presents another 3-cock derby featuring more than 50 fights. The event is a fitting follow-up to last week's 3-cock event hosted by Mayor Nene Aguilar and LPC manager Alex Tobias, which drew 50 entries. Seven entries, led by Aling Gloria bet of Cito Zamesa, topped that event. Tonight's hosts are Arnel Escarra and Carlos Pimentel. For submission of entries until 2 p.m., contact 8731040 and 874-3910. Meanwhile, Las Piñas Coliseum's regular hackfights resume tomorrow. Slated every Thursday is the No Entry Fee Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan.

Tag-Ulan 6-cocker

THE GRAND showdown of more than 300 provincial cockers and gamefowl breeders is set on Monday as Roligon Mega Cockpit presents the "Hatawan Sa Tag-Ulan 6-Cock Derby" with Pagcor-Airport Casino Filipino as sponsor. This five-day super cockfest (July 4, 6, 8, 11 and 13) will be hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon and stakes a guaranteed prize of P3 million. Each participant will receive P2,000 casino chips and cards from Airport Casino Filipino. A five-door Pajero on display at the Roligon lobby will go to the fastest win champion. Submission of weights is tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. only. For inquiries, call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812.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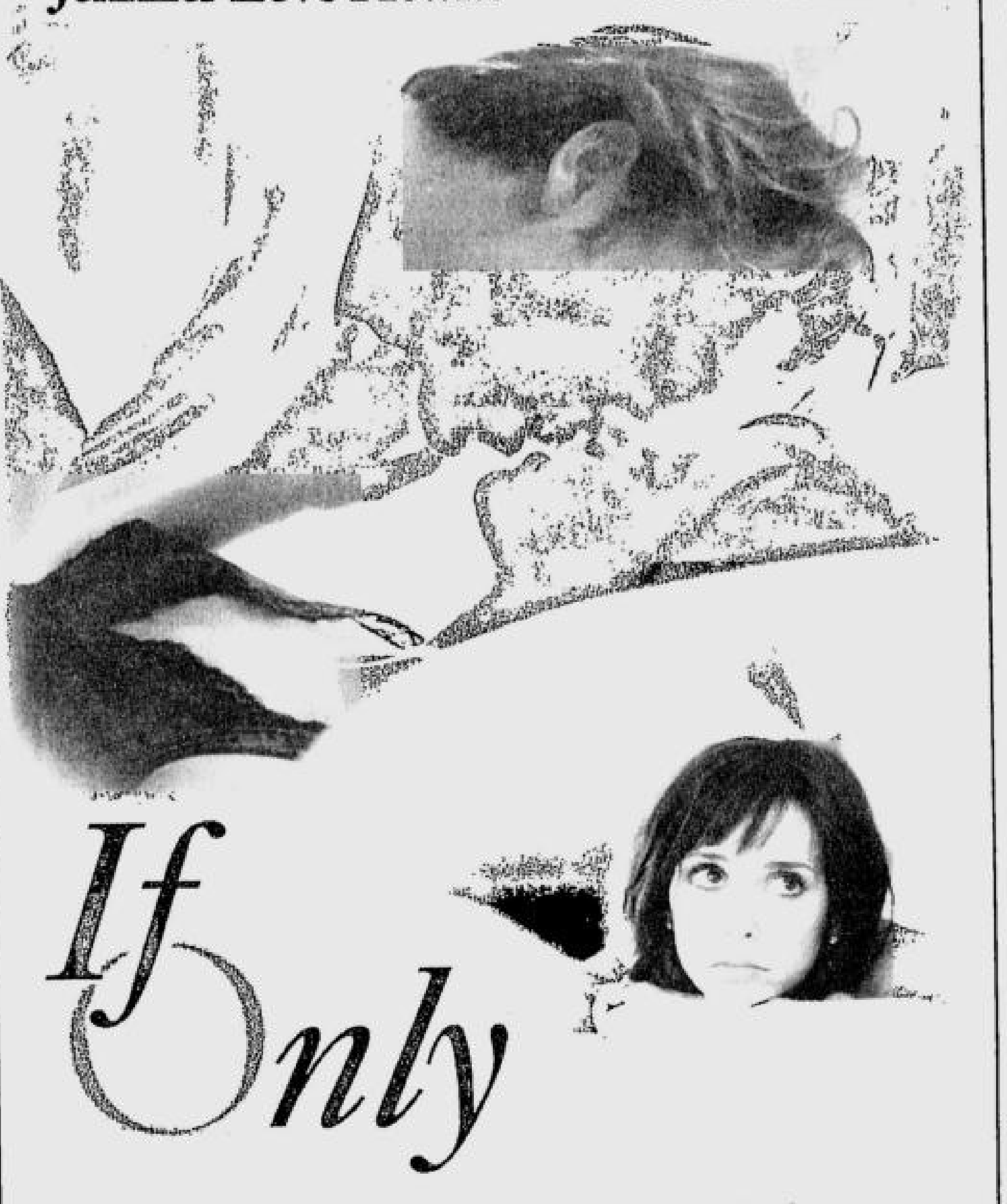

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341924
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
3 (DOLBY) MADAGASCAR
4 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN
5 SOON TO OPEN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 PREMONITION
4 HUBAD NA MULTO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 BATMAN BEGINS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 BATMAN BEGINS

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 LIBERATED - 2
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 BATMAN BEGINS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DTS EX) UNLEASHED
4 AMITYVILL HORROR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) THE SIN
2 SUKDULAN
3 MOTEL
4 (DTS) PREMONITION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DTS) PREMONITION
4 SUKDULAN
5 BATMAN BEGINS

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 (DTS) UNLEASHED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 (DOLBY) A LOTE LIKE LOVE
4 (DTS) MR. & MRS. SMITH

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 PREMONITION
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

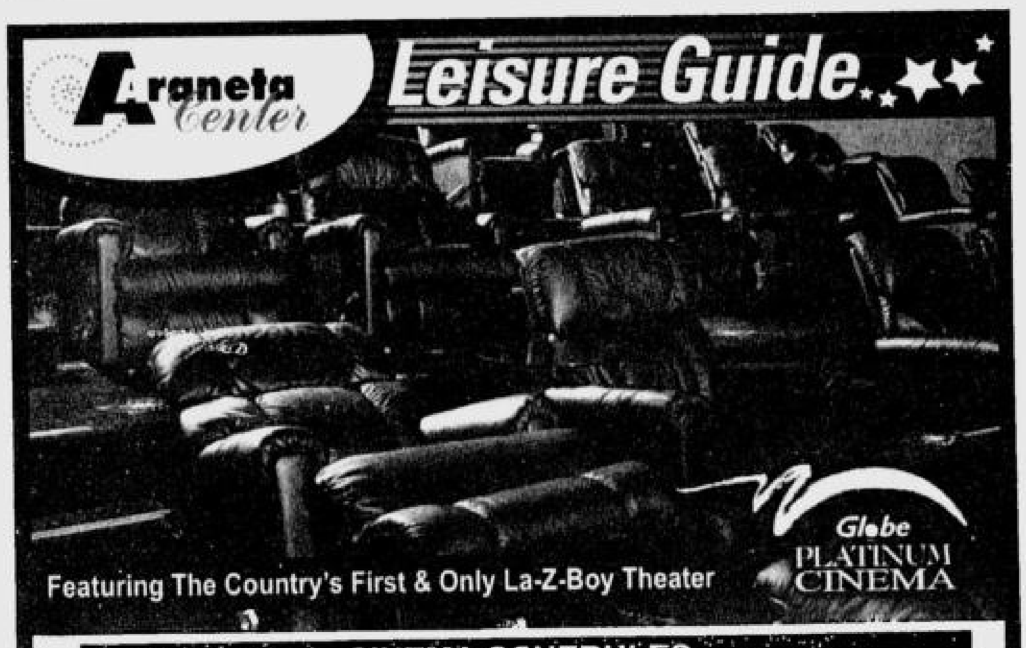
starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) MR. AND MRS. SMITH
2 RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 NASAAN KAMAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center
Leisure Guide



CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 WAR OF THE WORLDS & BATMAN BEGINS
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
MR & MRS SMITH 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
MONSTER IN LAW 1:10 / 3:50 / 6:30 / 9:10
HAPPILY EVER AFTER 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:15 / 1:40 / 2:35 / 3:10 / 4:20 / 5:30 6:05 / 7:00 / 8:25 / 9:00 / 9:40 / 10:50
BATMAN BEGINS 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
NASAAN KA MAN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
WAR OF THE WORLDS 1:25 / 4:20 / 7:15 / 10:10
ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ HAPPILY EVER AFTER 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
❷ WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
❸ BATMAN BEGINS 11:40 / 2:30 / 5:20 / 8:10
❹ NASAAN KA MAN 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
❺ MR & MRS SMITH 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN ATENEO - LA SALLE BASKETBALL CLASSIC July 2, Sat. 1pm & 3pm
July 3, Sunday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 2 6:40pm Talk N Texll vs San Miguel
July 6, Wednesday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 3 7:30pm Talk N Texll vs San Miguel
July 8, Fri. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 4 4:45pm Annual Awards / 7:30pm Talk N Texll vs San Miguel
CENTER EVENTS
SPECIAL ACTIVITY Ateneo & La Salle Legendary Rivals Night on July 2, 6pm at the Roxas Tunnel of Gateway Mall. Featuring performances by Stonefree, The Out Of Body Special, Shanice Michaels, Taggun Dios, Hidden Nikki, Delta Joy and many more!
SAL Mango Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until July 8 at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

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GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BLISS Interior for the Wedded Exhibit June 30, 2005	Anson's Exhibit June 30, 2005	Eden Dy Bazaar until June 30, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

Mega Magazine's Ten Most Beautiful Women Photo Exhibit
June 24-30, 2005

Greenbelt Onstage

"DON'T THINK" - A multi-media performance by Marge Enriquez (By Invitational Only)
Directed by Bart Guingona & Choreographed by Douglas Nieras
July 28, 2005

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS GB4 to 2333 (Globe) or 21 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS	3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 MR. & MRS. SMITH	3 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	6 WAR OF THE WORLDS	7 MONSTER-IN-LAW
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 BATMAN BEGINS 12.30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 MR. & MRS. SMITH 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BATMAN BEGINS 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MONSTER-IN-LAW 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS		
	3 MONSTER-IN-LAW	4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	5 BATMAN BEGINS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WAR OF THE WORLDS	2 BATMAN BEGINS	3 HOUSE OF WAX	4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

FANTASTIC 4

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AYALA CENTER CEBU
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
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MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

PREPARE FOR THE FANTASTIC ON JULY 8 AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

Stargazing at the Glorietta 1

MEET & GREET the stars of
HAPPILY EVER AFTER
July 1 (Friday), 2005, 5:30 PM, Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby

FREE picture taking & autograph signing with the stars for the first thirty (30) moviegoers who will present their HAPPILY EVER AFTER movietickets at the Glorietta 1 cinema customer service booth on July 1.

The film HAPPILY EVER AFTER opens June 29 at Ayala Cinemas

Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

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③ War of the Worlds
④ Nasaan Ka Man

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00
⑤ Batman Begins
⑥ Monster-in-Law
⑦ War of the Worlds

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With Al-Al Delas Alas, Randy Santiago, Vhong Navarro, Toni Gonzaga, Aaron Junatas and Nash Aguas

July 3, 2005, 4pm, Activity Center

Guaranteed seats for the first 300 shoppers who will present receipts worth P300 from any Market! Market! regular store, Food Choices, Metro Department Store & Supermarket, or three (3) Market! Market! cinema tickets dated July 3, 2005.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS • THX 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30	6 WAR OF THE WORLDS 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	7 MR. AND MRS. SMITH 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
3 HOTEL RWANDA 12:00 2:35 5:10 8:00 10:00	8 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
4 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:30 9:00	9 NASAAN KA MAN 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 BATMAN BEGINS 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00	10 HAPPILY EVER AFTER 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS	12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20
2 NASAAN KA MAN 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50
3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50	6 BATMAN BEGINS 12:00 3:15 6:30 9:45
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 HOTEL RWANDA 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00	5 BATMAN BEGINS 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH 12:00 2:25 4:45 7:15 9:30	6 NASAAN KA MAN 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW 1.25 4:00 6:35 9:10	7 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10.00
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00	8 HAPPILY EVER AFTER 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575	PIONEER 687-5378
1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH	1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 SHUTTER	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS	3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 BATMAN BEGINS	4 BATMAN BEGINS

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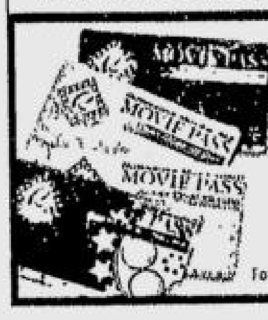
from June 03 to July 31

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907	LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS	1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 BATMAN BEGINS	4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332	ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS	2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS	3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS	4 UNLEASHED

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188	STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	1 SHUTTER
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS	2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW	3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS	4 BATMAN BEGINS
	5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
	6 WAR OF THE WORLDS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459	ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS	1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HOUSE OF WAX	2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 SHUTTER	3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 BATMAN BEGINS	4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS	5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 IN GOOD COMPANY	



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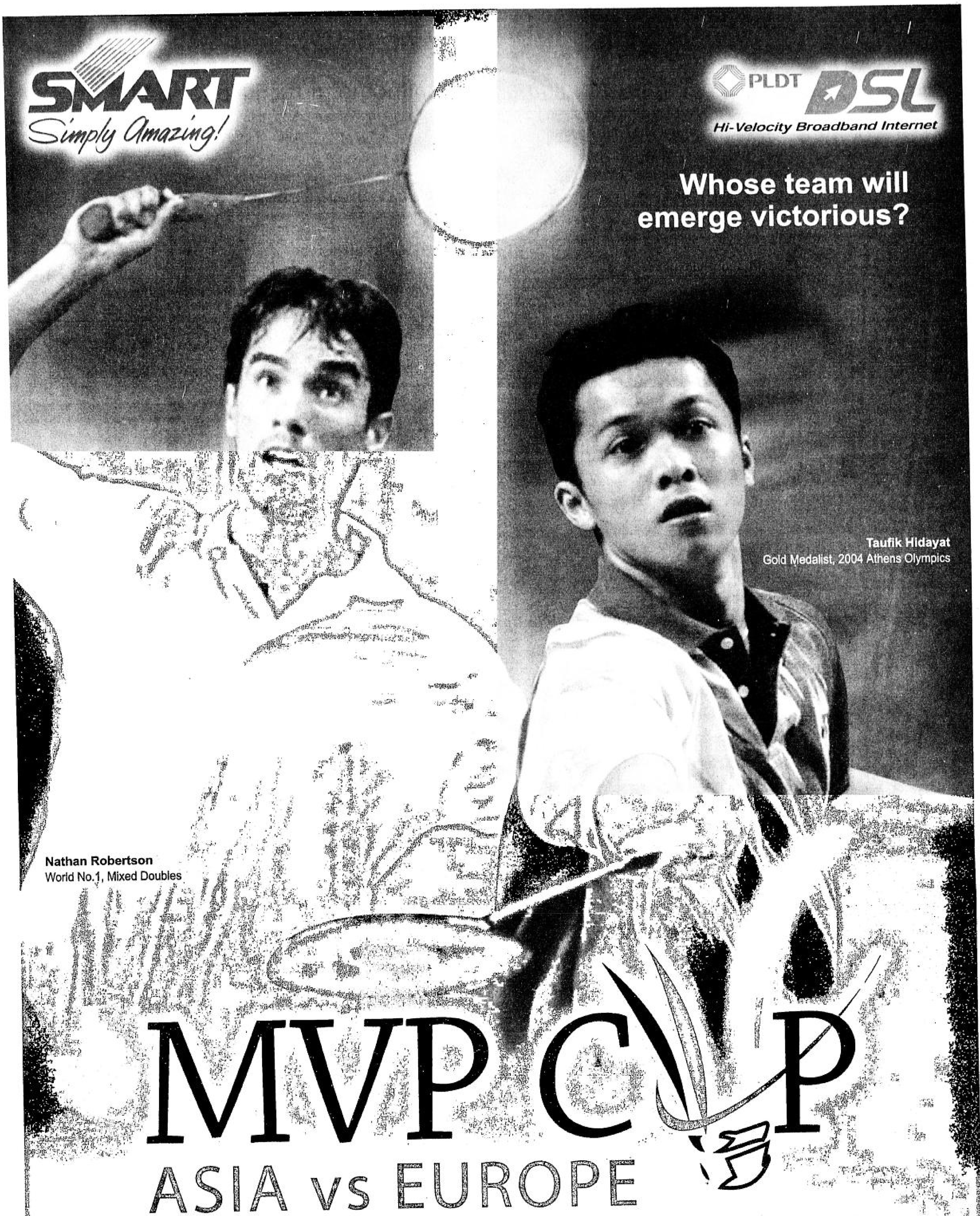

Whose team will emerge victorious?

Taufik Hidayat
Gold Medalist, 2004 Athens Olympics

Nathan Robertson
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SCHEDULE OF PLAY

July 12	7:00 pm	1st Women's Singles	(A) Zhang Ning vs Mia Audina Tjiptawan (E)
	8:30 pm	1st Men's Singles	(A) Taufik Hidayat vs Anders Boesen (E)
	10:00 pm	Men's Doubles	(A) Chan Chong Ming/Koo Kian Keat vs Nathan Robertson/Robert Blair (E)
July 13	7:00 pm	2nd Men's Singles	(A) Lin Dan vs Bjoern Joppien (E)
	8:30 pm	2nd Women's Singles	(A) Seo Yoon Hee vs Pi Hongyan (E)
	10:00 pm	Women's Doubles	(A) Saralee Thungthongkam/Sathinee Chankrachangwong vs Mia Audina Tjiptawan/Yao Jie (E)
July 14	7:00 pm	Mixed Doubles	(A) Kennivic Asuncion/Kennie Asuncion vs Nathan Robertson/Gail Emms (E)
	8:30 pm	3rd Women's Singles	(Team Captains' Option)
	10:00 pm	3rd Men's Singles	(Team Captains' Option)

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ATURDAY Special

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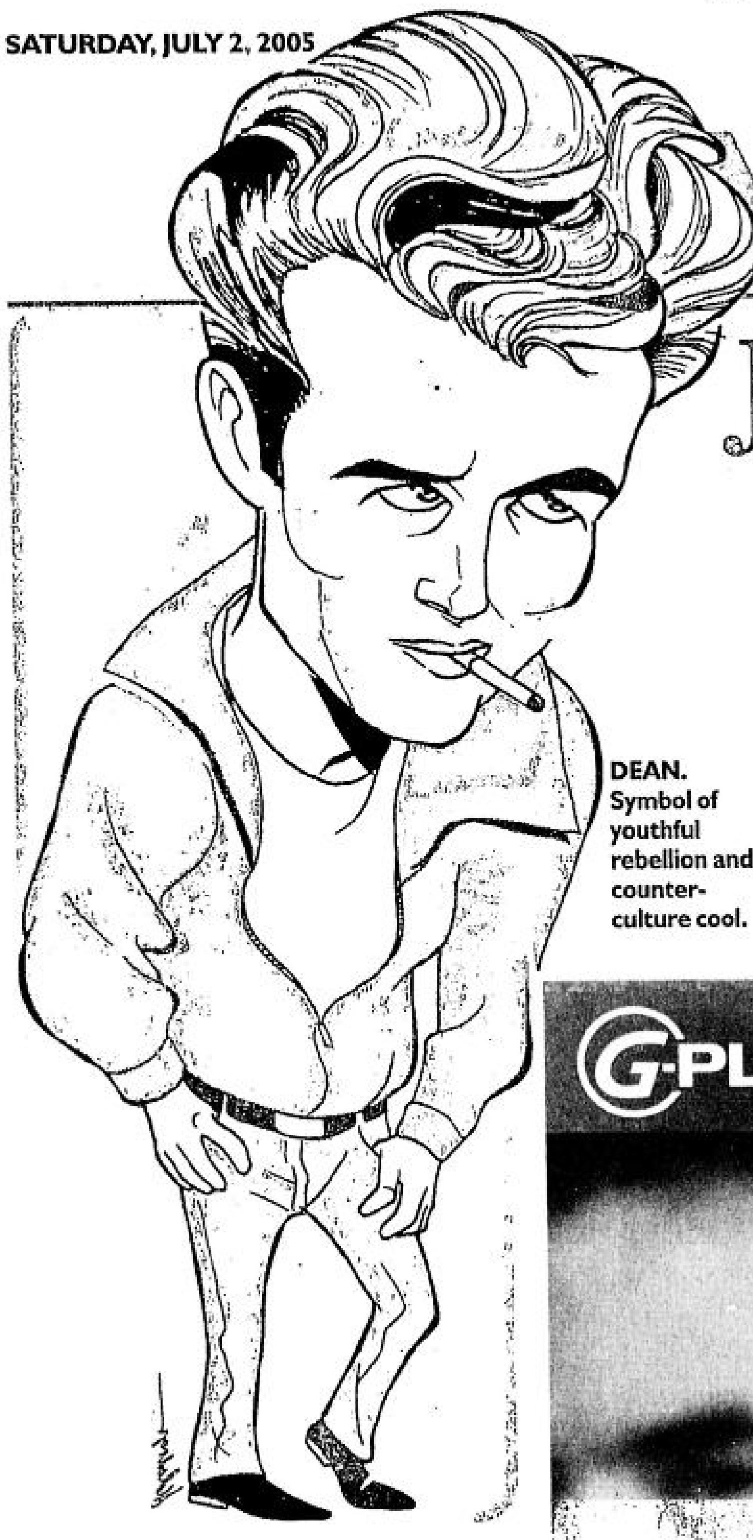
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**



DEAN. Symbol of youthful rebellion and counter-culture cool.

James Dean attracts new fans 50 years after death

MARION, Indiana—The secret to James Dean's iconic status is his sly grin. Or at least, *that's* what 16-year-old Sarah Moison-Thomas thinks.

"It's his charm. And the sense that he knows something you don't. That's what's so alluring about him," she gushed as she attended the James Dean festival recently in the actor's birthplace in Indiana.

And, like a surprising number of her generation, Moison-Thomas is planning on buying the new box set of Dean's films that has just been released to mark the 50th anniversary of his death on Sept. 30, 1955.

Surprising

The fanfare is surprising to Bob Middleton, 77, a childhood friend of Dean's, who remembers the angst-ridden movie star as "a teenage kid who was very likable, no trouble of any kind." He thought that Dean's fame would fade like so many of Hollywood's old legends. Instead, Dean became a symbol of youthful rebellion and counter-culture cool.

"James Dean gave teenagers who felt alienated from the adult world a voice," explained biographer George Perry. "He still represents something special to young people," Perry said.

Dean starred in Oscar-winning films: "East of Eden," "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Giant," and worked with the top directors of his time. He had only over a year to enjoy his fame, before he was killed while driving his Porsche Spyder 550 through the California countryside. AFP

'Happy Tales' author accepts SEAFCTV award

By Nestor U. Torre

IKEDA. Soka Gokkai's visionary leader.

FOR some months now, "Happy Tales," the upbeat Japanese *animé* TV series based on stories for children written by revered Soka Gakkai International head, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, has been a hit on Philippine television. GMA-7 has shown the series four times, and it has continued to reap impressively high ratings.

Child viewers have thrilled to its beautifully animated and inspiring tales, and parents and educators are profuse in their thanks for the well-produced series and the positive values it vivifies.

Appreciation

To properly express its appreciation to Dr. Ikeda, the Southeast Asia Foundation for Children and Television recently conferred its prized Anak TV broadcasters' award on Soka Gokkai's visionary leader last June 25 in Tokyo, Japan.

SEAFCTV president Edgardo Roces and Secretary General Mag Cruz Hatol flew to Tokyo to bestow the award, which was accepted on Dr. Ikeda's behalf by his eldest son, Hiromasa Ikeda, a respected educator in his own right.

Dr. Ikeda, has received many awards from different countries through the years, but he graciously expressed special appreciation for the SEAFCTV honor, perhaps because it was his first in the field of television.

In the acceptance speech delivered for him by his son, Dr. Ikeda shared: "At this moment, the words of Brian Wildsmith, a renowned British artist and illustrator of children's books, are echoing in my heart. When we met, I asked him what he thought children most intently seek, what they most deeply desire. His response was unhesitating and clear: 'Happiness.'

Happiness

"Children are envoys of the future. As adults, it is our duty to plant the seeds of happiness in children's hearts, to nurture and bring these to full and magnificent bloom. Because, if we allow the hearts of boys and girls to become desolate, the future of humanity will be grim, indeed.

"Thus, it is my immense privilege to be awarded the Anak TV honor, the highest in Filipino TV broadcasting for children's programming. I am deeply grateful.

"Some 30 years ago, I had the privilege of conducting a dialogue with the world-renowned historian, Arnold J. Toynbee. He told me that, during the first seven years of life, children learn fully, and absorb what is truly important to them. They learn more in those years, he said, than in all the decades that follow.

"It is precisely for this reason that I wish to offer to children the highest 'treasures of the heart.' This is my earnest prayer; to do so is the duty and responsibility of adults.

'HAPPY'/ A2-2

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Promo period: June 8 to July 31. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3265, Series of 2005.

Great stories come to life on Hallmark

THE HALLMARK Channel brings viewers a variety of engaging stories this month. Its 9 p.m. "Movie Premieres" features these enjoyable and thrilling tales:

The magical world of "Earthsea" (July 3) is in peril. The Amulet of Peace, which has ensured the harmony between humans and dragons, is broken, and a piece has gone missing.

Earthsea has only one chance to restore the amulet and protect its many islands from the occupation of evil forces, and that responsibility lands squarely on the shoulders of neophyte wizard, Ged (Shawn Ashmore, "X-Men 2"). It's up to the young man to reinstate the balance, and stop a nefarious king from conquering the home he loves.

BROWDER. Plays an astronaut in "Peacekeeper War."

Estranged daughters

In 'Angel in The Family' (July 10), widowed father Buddy Bishop (Ronny Cox) and his two estranged daughters make their way back to the past, and to their old family home for a special Christmas. There, they experience a miracle together:

The terrible Scarran Empire has engaged a full-scale war, and the Peacekeeper Alliance is its next target. As "Peacekeeper War" (July 17) unfolds, the group finds that their only hope for survival lies with the reassembled human astronaut, John Crichton (Ben Browder). Now, Crichton has to successfully locate a wormhole, predict when it'll open, and flush the entire Peacekeeper race to safety before the war brings an end to the universe.

Other noteworthy movies: "Valentin" (July 24), "Fungus The Bogeyman" (July 30), and "Category 6: Day of Destruction" (July 31).

HIROMASA Ikeda (right, with SEAFCTV president Edgardo Roces) accepts Anak TV broadcasters' award for his father.

'Happy' . . .

From page A2-1

"The tales I have written are an effort to fulfill that responsibility. Starting with 'The Boy and the Cherry Tree," written 30 years ago, I have penned 23 such works.

"Contemporary society and media are full of materials that undermine and spoil the purity of children's hearts. So much of what we see on television, in the movies, games, comics and the Internet is the commercialized purveying of violence.

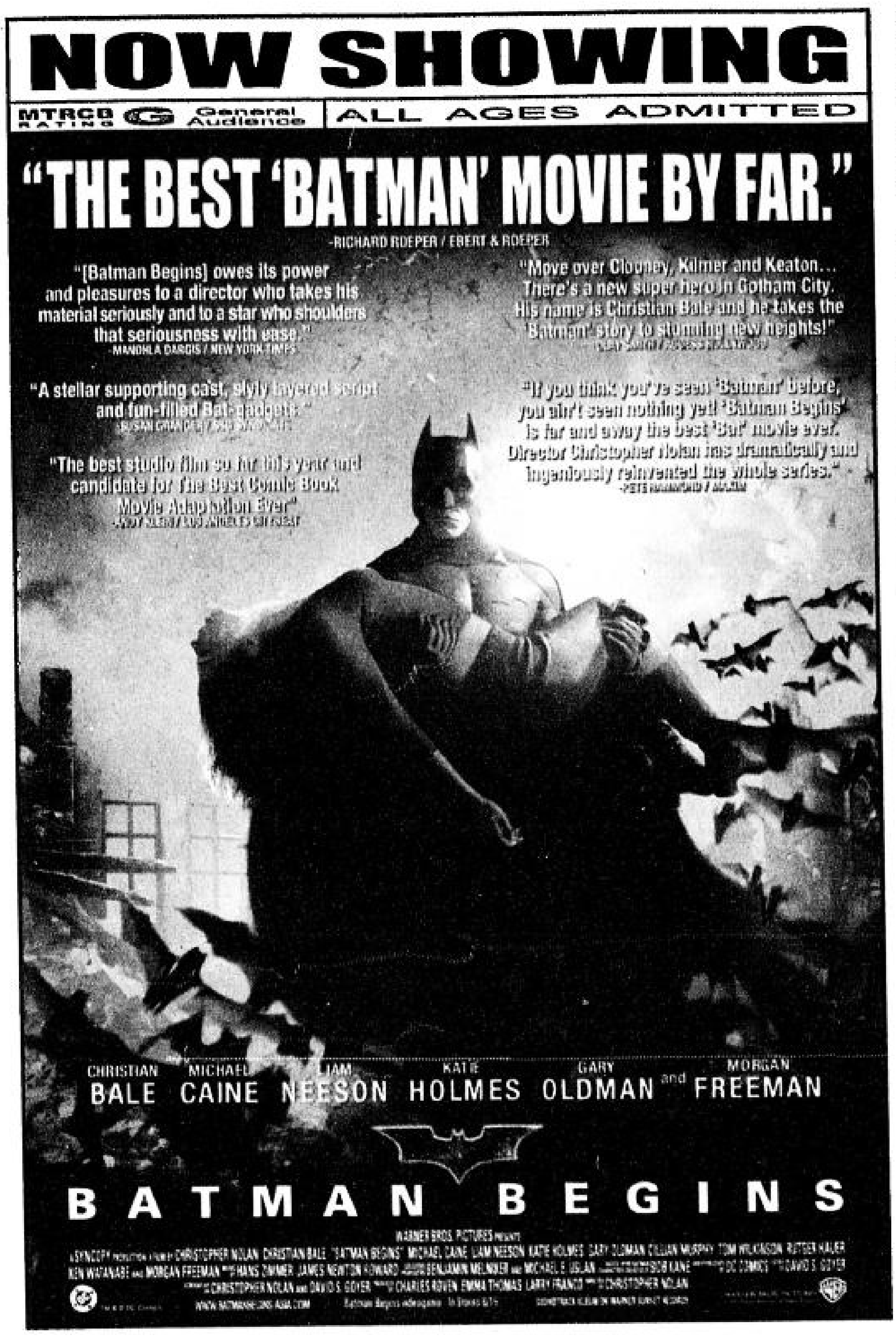
"The examples that children absorb are all too often intertwined with violence and destruction. In fact, today in Japan, we have been witnessing incidents of violence committed by young people influenced by their exposure to violent media content.

Wisdom

"We cannot continue to poison children's hearts in this way. We must show children that it's possible to live happily, inspiring in them the wisdom to do so. We must plant the seeds of genuine justice and courage, the seeds of hope and kindness. Only then will we see the beautiful gardens of happiness come to blossom.

"The great Philippine hero we deeply respect, Dr. Jose Rizal, is known to have translated children's tales as a gift to children. He said, 'We are all human, and we can improve ourselves through cultural and educational efforts.'

"To that end, I will continue to join my efforts with those of our distinguished friends gathered here, to assure that children's lives are indeed such tales of happiness. With that vow and pledge, I wish to conclude with these words of thanks—*Maraming salamat po!*"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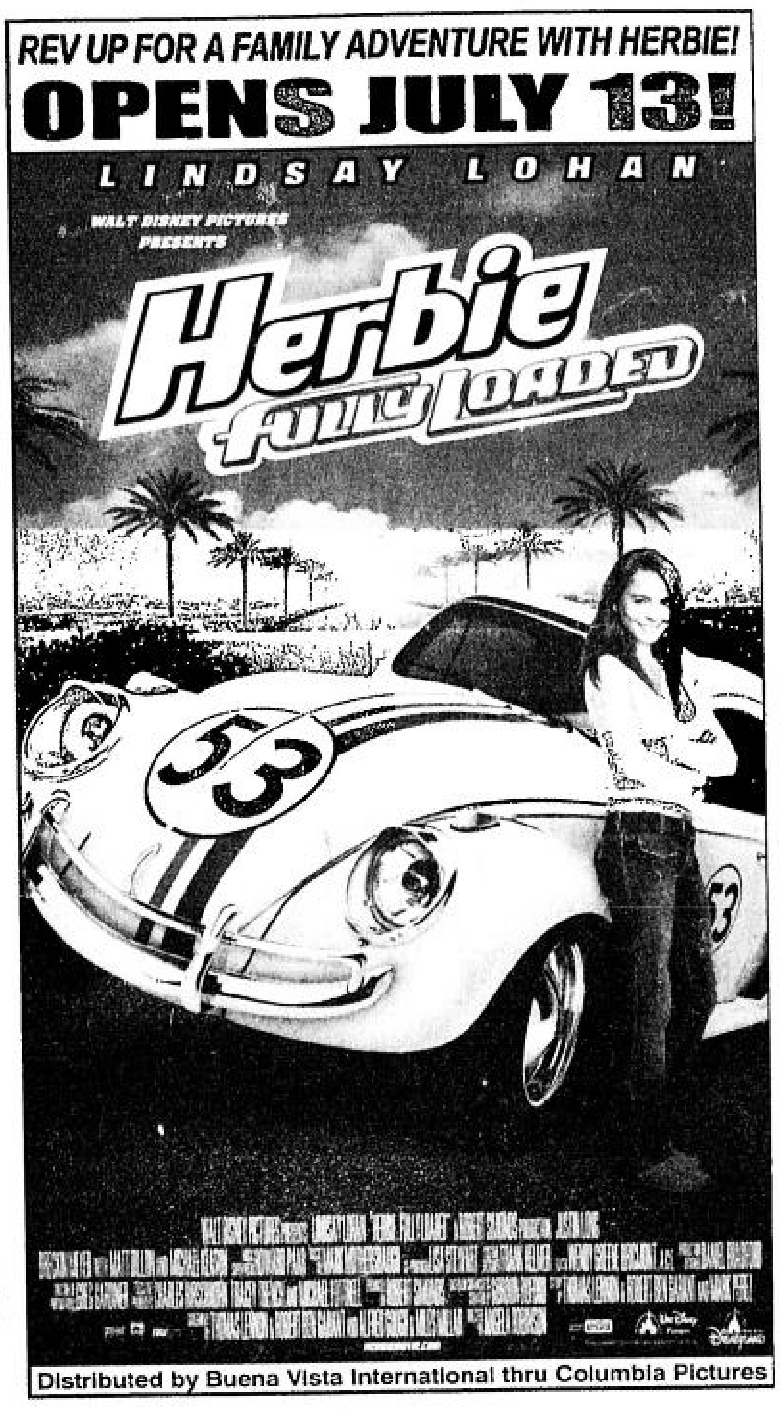
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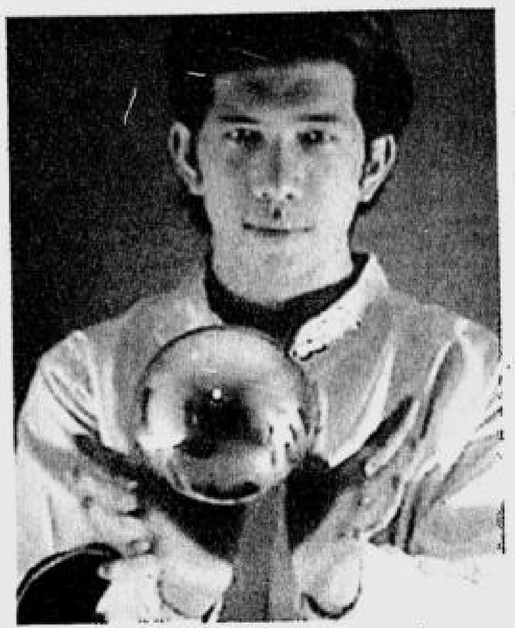
Magic act at Dreamscape

MONTAGE

MASTER magician Herman Aquino will perform at 3 p.m. on July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 at Dreamscape, at the fourth level of Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas. The ace illusionist's magical effects make imaginative use of handkerchiefs, parasols and animals that appear and disappear right before viewers' eyes.

In "Linking Rings," he uses music and a great sense of style as he links the rings together. In the "Egg and Bag Trick," an egg that magically disappears while in the possession of a volunteer from the audience reappears instantly in a bag held by another volunteer.

Dreamscape offers entertaining rides, amusement facilities and fun activities for children and adults alike, while toddlers will enjoy the new GBOX Kiddie Activity Center. Call 636-2911 or 631-7594.



AQUINO. Ace illusionist makes use of handkerchiefs, parasols and animals that appear and disappear right before viewers'eyes.

'Kabataan News Network'

At 10 a.m. today, the "Kabataan News Network" features kids in Saranggani who turn to boxing; the youth's involvement in Gawad Kalinga 777 in Pagadian City, and the Buglasan festival in Negros Oriental. The show is also telecast on NBN 4 at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

'Batman Begins' soundtrack

The soundtrack of "Batman Begins" has been released on CD. It contains 12 tracks composed by Hans Zimmer and James Newton Howard, which capture the motion, energy and darkness of the iconic Batman story.

Movies on TV

HBO, July 2 at 3:45 p.m., "Coming to America." 7:30 p.m., "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas." 10:50 p.m., "Catch Me If You Can." July 3 at 11:15 p.m., "About Schmidt." July 4 at 9:30 a.m., "Lost in Translation." 3:50 p.m., "My House in Umbria." 9 p.m., "The Last Samurai." July 5 at 11 a.m., "The Mirror Has Two Faces." July 6 at 9:30 a.m., "Charlotte Gray."

On Cinemax, July 2 at 8:15 a.m., "Flashdance." 6 p.m., "A Few Good Men." 4 a.m., "Perdita Durango." July 3 at 9:30 a.m., "True Crime." July 4 at 11 a.m., "Fahrenheit 451." July 5 at 6 a.m., "The Postman." 12:15 p.m., "The Bourne Identity." July 6 at 8 a.m., "Giant."

Celebrities' lives as TV fodder

By Behn Cervantes

WITH ludicrous frequency, entertainers wash their dirty linen on television at the first available chance. Other than those exploitative talk shows' hosts, who the heck really cares?

Why are we privy to entertainers' dirt? And, why do they think that grisly details of their private lives should be primetime fodder?

Do we really care why two celebrity sisters are feuding? Aren't there more important things to discuss?

Many entertainers declare that they don't wish to be the focus of controversy, but they are nevertheless eager to discuss their lives on gossip shows! Of course, they are written about in the tabloids—whether they are interviewed or not. Obviously, gossip sells: the grimier, the better!

Bait

These troubled entertainers also allow themselves to be reduced to tears by TV hosts, so they can mope about their love lives. They bite every imaginable bait to encourage debate.

The cheap gimmick is premised on the show biz dictum that "all publicity is good publicity"—be it steamy, seamy or plain silly!

The exposés revealed will be passed on by word-of-mouth, so a perception is formed even without proof and verification—with disastrous results for the parties involved.

Those who willingly enter the gossip arena are themselves often vulgar and have little shame, so they are able to bare their private lives and family problems with no compunction.

No focus

In effect, televiewers gawk at dysfunctional personalities who obviously lack attention, or have no focus in life. They think they are above standard rules of morality and good behavior. They profess to "follow their heart" when, in truth, they simply observe the wrong values. The young who see them as role models could find themselves in deep trouble if they follow their sorry example!

In the good, old days, there were more stringent regulations about good behavior. Check out the rules of Sampaguita Studios, for example. These days, entertainers who disregard convention are praised for their courage and daring! They are unacceptable role models for the impressionable public.

And please, if you must "follow your heart," don't tell the world the gory details! You may not be aware of it, but there are more important things in life that deserve our attention.

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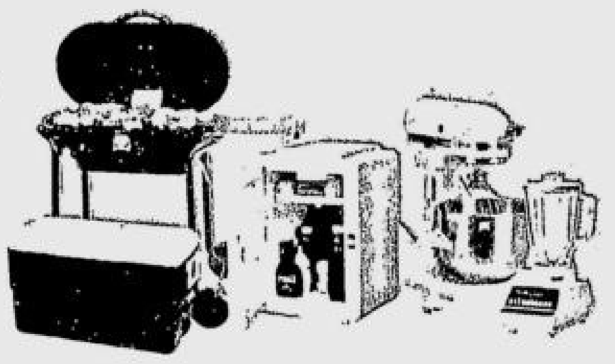

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See posters for details.

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0514 Series of 2005

'Pepot Artista' is a dream come true for Doy del Mundo

By Rica Arevalo

BACK in the 1970s, Doy del Mundo dreamt of becoming a director. He wanted to make films, but as fate would have it, he found fame as a screenwriter, instead.

"I was supposed to direct a movie for the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines. But, the ECP was abolished. So, *naudlot ang* chance *na 'yun*. When Cinemalaya came up, I felt that my chance finally arrived," he shares.

Doy looks up to independent filmmakers because they are more aggressive. "They make things happen. They create opportunities for themselves, so I thought I should do something similar," he adds.

DEL MUNDO (RIGHT) AND CASTILLO. The scriptwriter-turned-director and his young star.

Finalists

Among the nine Cinemalaya finalists, he is the most senior. Yet, his film, "Pepot Artista," is about a child (Elijah Castillo) who dreams of becoming an actor.

The film uses "Biyaya ng Lupa" as reference for the deaf child, but the director makes the sign language more accessible in the movie. Among his award-winning scripts, 'Pepot' is closest to "Aliwan Paradise" in terms of substance.

Filipinos love to be entertained. And Doy wants to make a satirical statement about child stars, the film industry and Philippine society in the '70s.

"People who know me would not expect something like this. *Ang tingin nila sa akin ay tahimik*—that I'm a humorless person. They might be surprised to see that I can do something fun as well," he beams.

Tense moment

From the start, Doy wanted the cast and crew to have some fun because they were making a comedy. "It took 21 days to finish the film. There was one tense moment when I had to ask for security," he reveals.

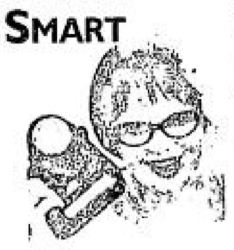
"There was a drunkard who was making noise during a shoot. My brother, Herky, who was also my cinematographer, wanted to take matters into his hands, but I didn't want a riot. That was the cause of the tension. But, over-all, filming was a relaxed process."

He confides, "After 'Pepot,' I plan to continue making documentaries." After more than 30 years, *Direk* Doy's dream of seeing "Pepot Artista" on the big screen has finally become a reality!

Alternative therapy

FRANCISCO: Balanced relationships among components of the body.

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

DR. FREDERICK D. Francisco is a specialist in infectious and tropical diseases. He is a homeopathic medical doctor, and president of the Philippine College of Integrative Medicine and Homotoxicology. The Biological Homeopathic Health Centers (BHHC) of Dr. Francisco are located at 1691 Maria Orosa St., Malate (523-1211), and at the Bellevue Hotel in Alabang (850-6249).

At 45, Dr. Francisco extensively promotes the application of "heel" medicine from Germany that gives medical benefits to patients.

Treatment

The main goal of the BHHC treatment is to establish harmony in health—balanced relationships among the physical, chemical, mental, emotional and spiritual components of the body. Homeostasis allows the patient's defense mechanisms and immune system to efficiently combat disease-producing agents.

Homotoxicology removes toxins in the tissue. Chelation therapy is a safe method for taking out harmful substances and metabolic wastes from the blood. Biooxidation therapy is given to increase local oxygen supply to tissues.

Change of lifestyle

I was told about a retired PAL pilot who suffered from cancer of the tongue. Visits to the BHHC prevented an operation that would have cut off his tongue. He was healed by a change of lifestyle that included physical and spiritual exercises, and homeopathic treatments.

Email author at mandy-navasero@photopro.com.ph, or call 899-1767.

Control freaks, desist

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT would TV public affairs show hosts do without interviewees? Very little, obviously. They could fill up all those programming minutes and hours by interviewing each other, but the attractiveness of that prospect would quickly pall on viewers. So, it stands to reason that TV interviewers should treat their guests with respect and consideration.

Sometimes, however, public-affairs program hosts do quite the opposite, haranguing their guests to get the quotable sound bites they need. Properly intimidated, the guests meekly go with the cynical flow, and allow interviewers to do their worst.

Dead giveaway

What are some of the signs of this disrespectful treatment of guests on TV? A dead giveaway is when the host's questions are longer than the interviewee's responses!

The opposite should be the case, of course. But, some self-important hosts are so dazzled by their erudition and analytical powers that they need their guests only to affirm the analyses that they have so brilliantly phrased in their complex-compound "questions."

Less inconsiderate but also irritating is some hosts' penchant for coming up with blithe, control-freak patter like, "Before I let you go, please sum up your final thoughts on the issues we've tackled here, in 20 seconds or less."

Oh, wow. The guest may be a VIP, but he ends up feeling like a performing seal, whose actuations and thoughts are controlled by the dictator—or dominatrix—interviewer.

Another irritating habit of some hosts is to leave a studio guest hanging while the interviewer accommodates a phoned-in comment from another resource person.

Input

"Please hold that thought while we listen to this new input from (name of caller)" is how the host goes from one interviewee to the next.

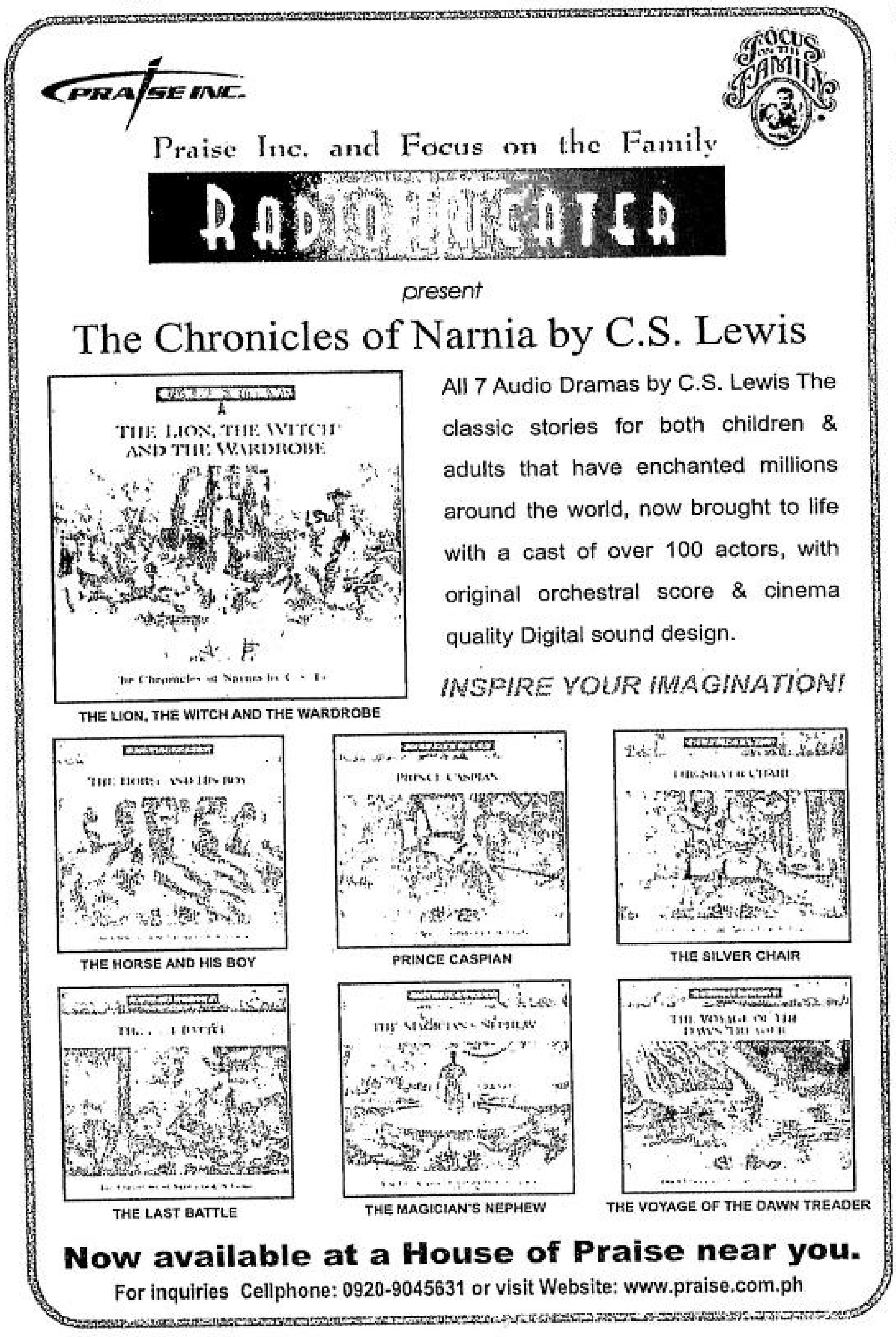
Such power! —Well, at least he said "please."

Other dismissive ploys include "We've run out of time," "We'll have to leave it there," and "Maybe, we can invite you back for a Part Two?" The tone may vary, but the subtext is the same: You're here to serve our purposes, so (please) do exactly that, and nothing more.

Personal takes

Thank goodness, other public-affairs host-interviewers are less controlling, and more genuinely interested in their guests' views and personal takes on the issues and conflicts that involve them.

This thrust is more appropriate to television, because it's an intimate, one-on-one medium, and thus is best suited to the personal, introspective approach. So, armchair psychologists are welcome, but control freaks, desist! (Please.)



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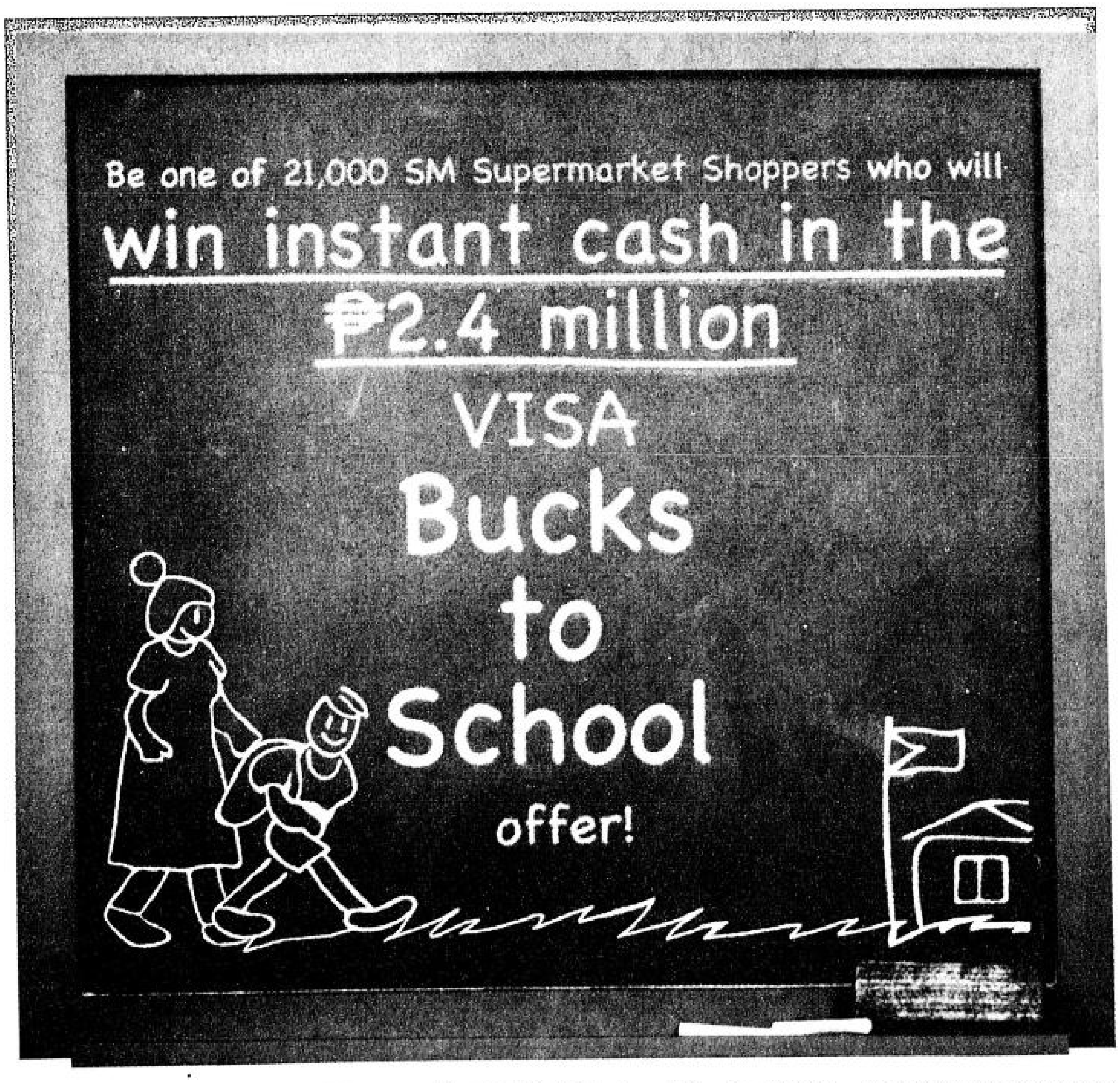

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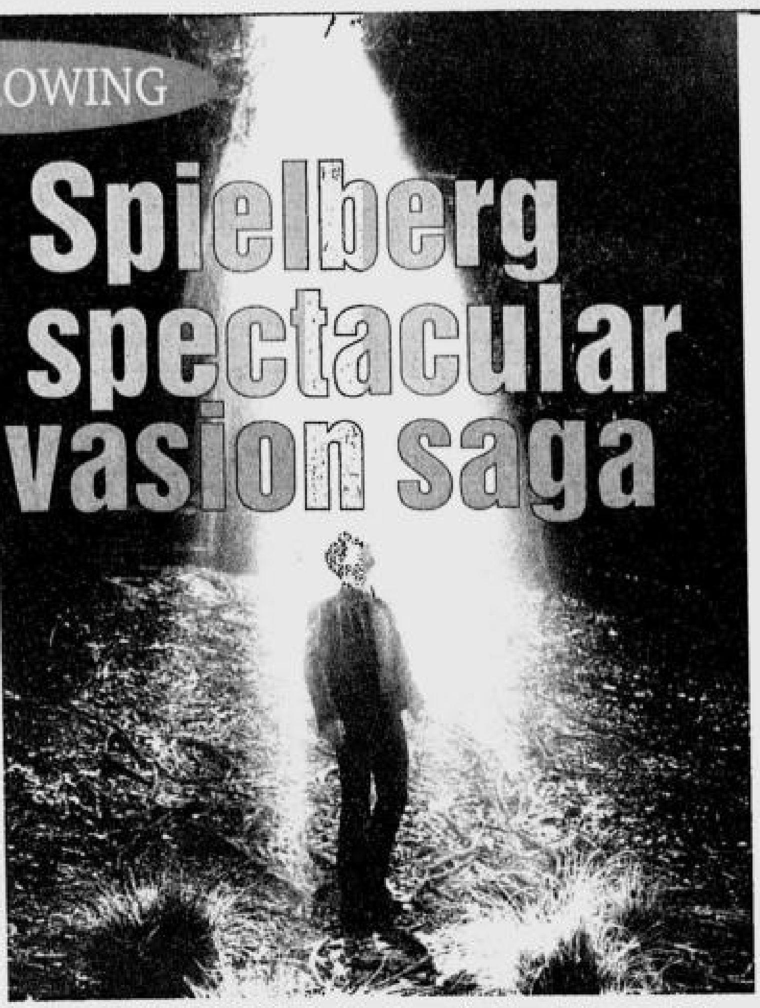


"WAR OF THE WORLDS." Astute dramatization of the senselessness of war and invasion.

By Rito P. Asilo

"War of the Worlds"
D: Steven Spielberg
S: Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning

TINSELTOWN's Peter Pan, Steven Spielberg, revisits his fascination with extra-terrestrial beings, and comes up with a darker, harsher perspective in his dazzling, edge-of-your-seat retelling of H.G. Wells' seminal 1898 novel about alien invasion.

If you think the movie will bring back fond, feel-good memories of "E.T.," think again. In Spielberg's amazing second collaboration with Tom Cruise, Neverland is just a figment of the imagination.

The story is adapted to a contemporary setting as it follows Ray Ferrier (Cruise), a divorced, blue-collar dockworker and less-than-perfect father to teenage son, Robbie (Justin Chatwin), and 10-year-old Rachel (Dakota Fanning). Soon after his newly-married, now-pregnant ex-wife, Mary Ann (Miranda Otto), drops off his less-than-enthusiastic kids for a rare weekend visit, a strange lightning storm strikes—with gusty winds blowing *toward* it!

Then, the human-pulverizing Tripods—vividly described by Wells in the book, and magnificently realized by Spielberg in the movie—emerge from under the earth to start their ruthless, take-no-prisoners invasion of our planet. Once the very personal, dramatic themes are established through swift, smartly delivered exposition, the action rolls and rages—and never lets up!

In Spielberg's surreal images of destruction, humans are vaporized by electromagnetic beams, and their lifeless bodies litter pristine rivers and lonely streets that are slowly transformed into eerie, blood-filled, root-covered tombs and crevices. Indeed, nobody tells stories as assiduously entertaining and as visually striking as Spielberg does—and how!

The movie treads familiar thematic grounds like those essayed in M.Night Shyamalan's "Signs," Tim Burton's "Mars Attacks!," and Roland Emmerich's "Independence Day." But the production achieves emotional and, yes, political resonance by its astute dramatization of the senselessness of war and invasion, as seen in the eyes of a family that has its own issues to address—a narrative tack that brings a more personal standpoint to the story.

In an unsettling subplot that involves Tim Robbins' character, Ogilvy, Ray is faced with a moral dilemma that graphically demonstrates the extent of what a man would do to survive.

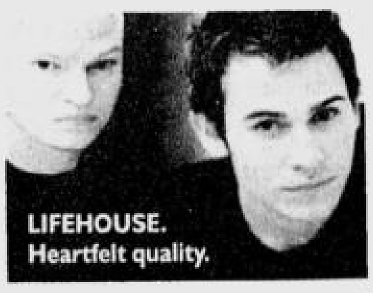
Cruise turns in an affecting performance as an irresponsible father who's forced to face his paternal responsibilities—an impressive turn that is almost overshadowed by Fanning's nuanced but much-too-crafty characterization.

Cruise, the world's biggest star, may steer the movie to box-office heaven, but, with jolting visual pizazz and unparalleled storytelling savvy, it's Spielberg, the world's biggest director, who provides a refreshing context to the oft-repeated story. Together, Cruise and Spielberg bring the movie's heart and soul to the fore.

FANNING AND CRUISE. Play daughter and father in latest adaptation of H.G. Wells' seminal novel.

'Lifehouse' takes a different musical approach

By Noelani Torre



LIFEHOUSE. Heartfelt quality.

IT'S hard not to like Lifehouse's eponymously-named third album. The sleekly produced, perfectly performed "Lifehouse" gives you 50 minutes worth of enjoyable pop rock—and unlike some of his contemporaries who churn out the same pleasant fare, lead singer Jason Wade sounds like he means what he sings.

Alternative artists

It is this heartfelt quality, as well as Wade's ability to furnish just the right hooks, that have made them distinguishable from the hordes of other emo rockers and adult alternative artists.

They need this distinguishing factor, having been compared too often to the likes of Creed and Stone Temple Pilots. In fact, it may have been the desire to avoid any more of those comparisons that led them to take a different musical approach in their third album.

In "Lifehouse," the band has decided to tone down on the amps and on their residual teenage anger.

Revamped style

Instead, they've gone guitar-y and mostly acoustic, following in the footsteps of such groups as Matchbox 20 and the Goo Goo Dolls. What their revamped style first reminds us of, however, is the '70s work of the Beatles.

The trio—Wade, Rick Woolstenhulme Jr. (drums, percussion, piano), and Bryce Soderberg (bass, background vocals)—aren't on that same "best of the best" level, but they do have a great deal of charm. Couple that with hook-laden melodies, and you've got a made-for-radio formula guaranteed to get them a lot of airplay.

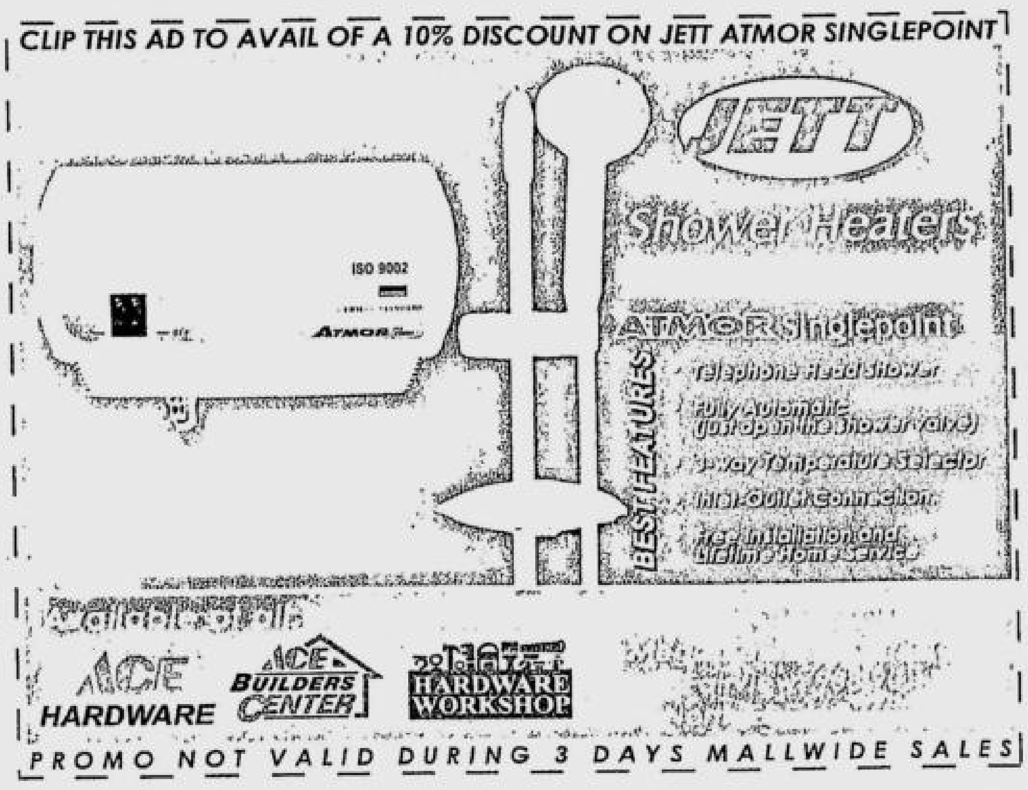
First single "You and Me," for example, has been on the air for sometime now. A rather ambivalently-worded love song, it sounds like a cross between a ballad and an anthem.

Theme

Love isn't the only theme tackled in "Lifehouse." "Walking Away" is about abandonment, for example, and "Better Luck Next Time" was inspired by the divorce of twentysomething Wade's parents when he was 12.

Produced by John Alagia (John Mayer, Dave Matthews Band, Liz Phair), "Lifehouse" is easy to listen to and serves as an announcement of the band's future direction in music.

No longer really a rock band, this LA trio is on its way down a crossover road that other California bands have taken. Only time will tell if they've made the right move, but for now, it's all working out fine.



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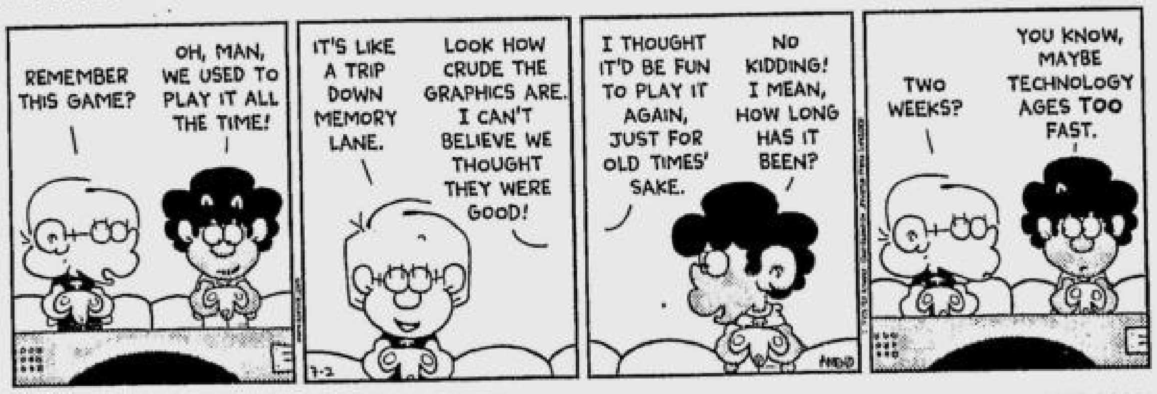
BY BILL AMEND


REMEMBER THIS GAME?
OH, MAN, WE USED TO PLAY IT ALL THE TIME!
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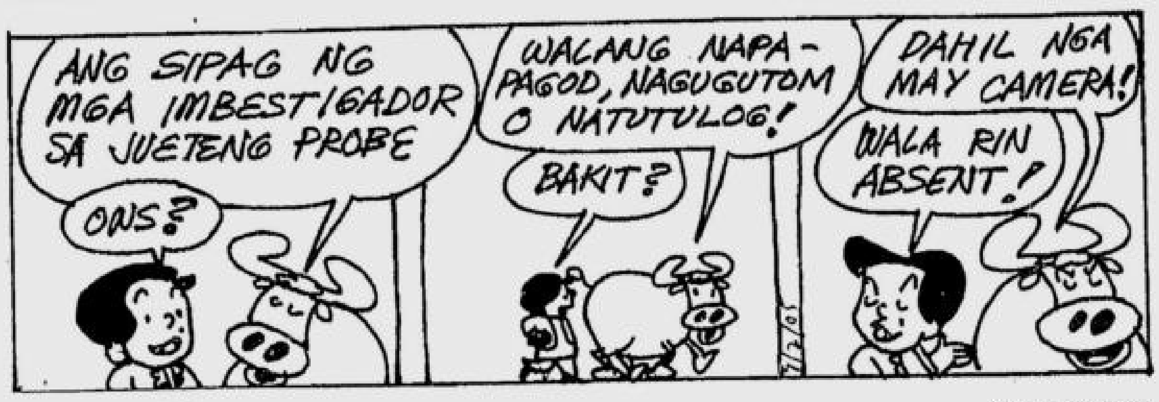
LOOK HOW CRUDE THE GRAPHICS ARE. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE THOUGHT THEY WERE GOOD!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN TO PLAY IT AGAIN, JUST FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE.
NO KIDDING! I MEAN, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
TWO WEEKS?
YOU KNOW, MAYBE TECHNOLOGY AGES TOO FAST.
7-2

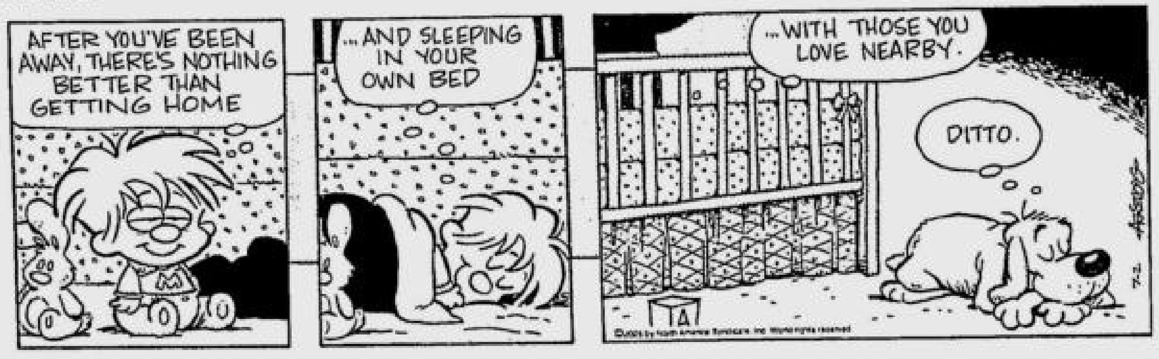
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG SIPAG NG MGA IMBESTIGADOR SA JUETENG PROBE
ONS?
WALANG NAPA-PAGOD, NAGUGUTOM O NATUTULOG!
BAKIT?
DAHIL NGA MAY CAMERA!
WALA RIN ABSENT!
7/2/05

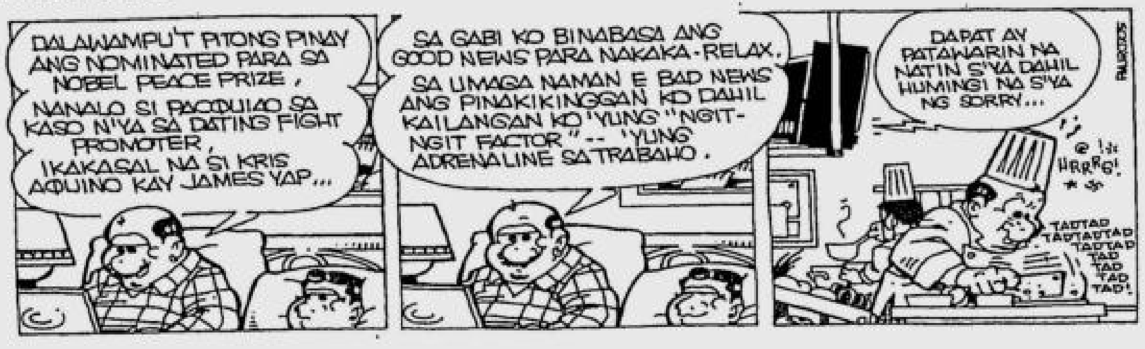
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


AFTER YOU'VE BEEN AWAY, THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN GETTING HOME
...AND SLEEPING IN YOUR OWN BED
...WITH THOSE YOU LOVE NEARBY.
DITTO.
7-2

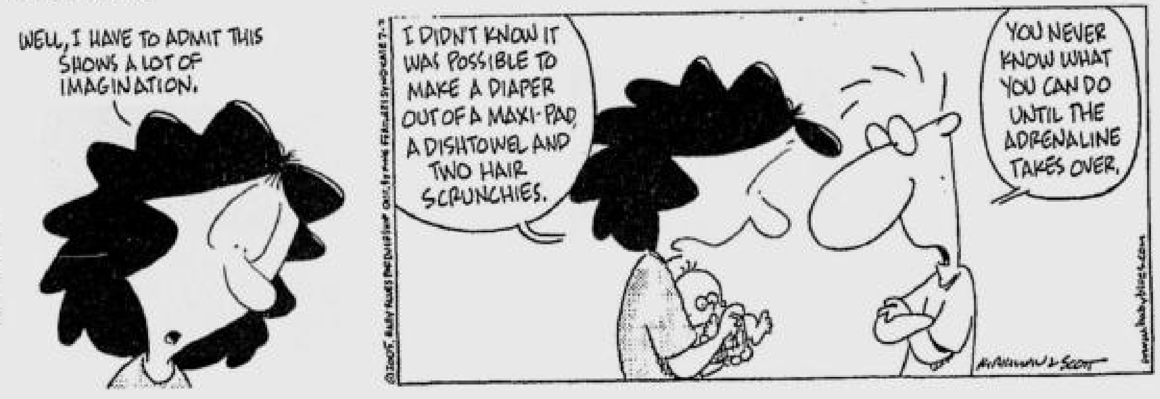
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DALAWAMPU'T PITONG PINAY ANG NOMINATED PARA SA NOBEL PEACE PRIZE,
NANALO SI PACQUIAO SA KASO N'YA SA DATING FIGHT PROMOTER,
IKAKASAL NA SI KRIS AQUINO KAY JAMES YAP...
SA GABI KO BINABASA ANG GOOD NEWS PARA NAKAKA-RELAX.
SA UMAGA NAMAN E BAD NEWS ANG PINAKIKINGGAN KO DAHIL KAILANGAN KO 'YUNG "NGIT-NGIT FACTOR" -- 'YUNG ADRENALINE SA TRABAHO.
DAPAT AY PATAWARIN NA NATIN S'YA DAHIL HUMINGI NA S'YA NG SORRY...
HRRRG!
TADTAD TADTADTAD TADTAD TAD TAD TAD TAD!

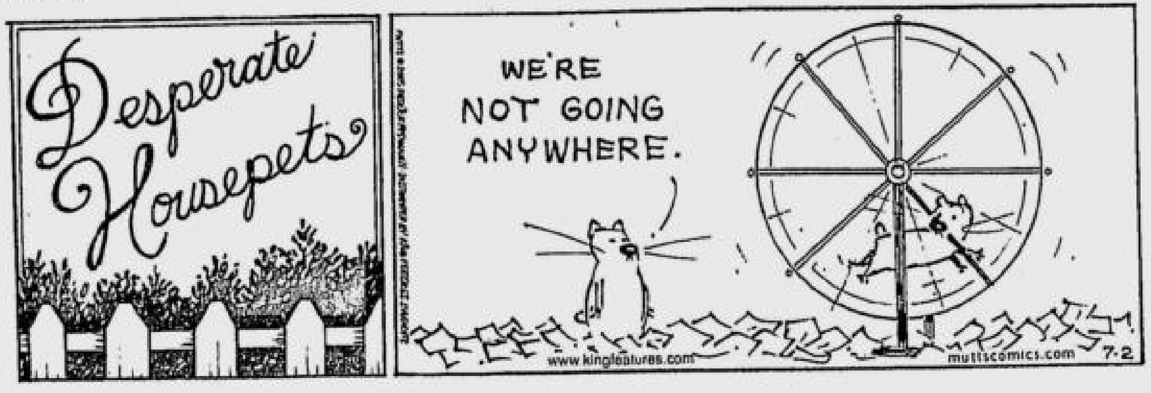
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WELL, I HAVE TO ADMIT THIS SHOWS A LOT OF IMAGINATION.
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS POSSIBLE TO MAKE A DIAPER OUT OF A MAXI-PAD, A DISHTOWEL AND TWO HAIR SCRUNCHIES.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO UNTIL THE ADRENALINE TAKES OVER.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

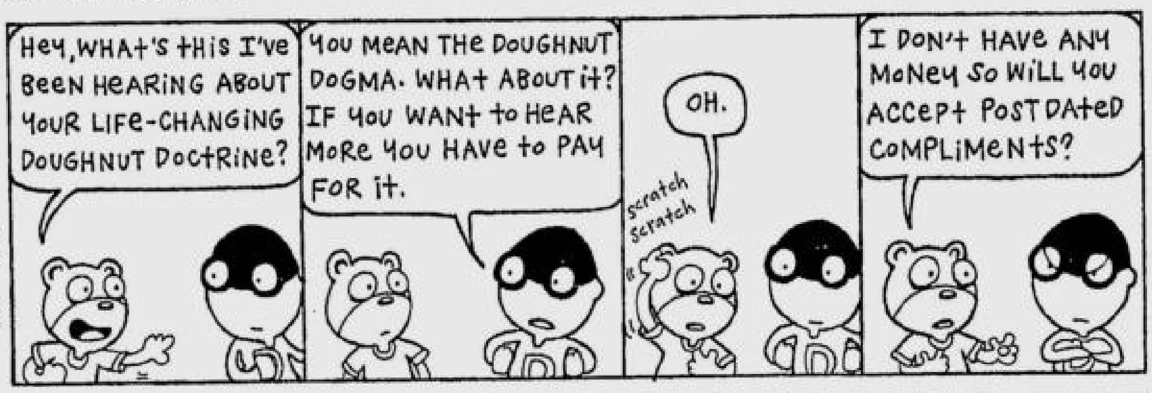
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Desperate Housepets
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
7-2

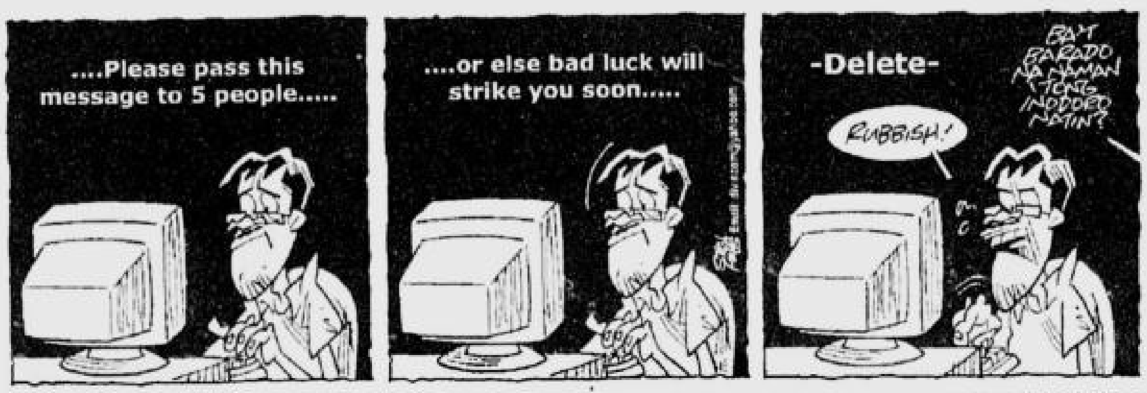
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WHAT'S this I've Been HEARING ABOUT YOUR LIFE-CHANGING DOUGHNUT DOCTRINE?
YOU MEAN THE DOUGHNUT DOGMA. WHAT ABOUT it? IF YOU WANT to HEAR MORE YOU HAVE to PAY FOR it.
scratch scratch
OH.
I DON't HAVE ANY MONEY SO WiLL YOU ACCEPT POST DATED COMPLIMENTS?

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


....Please pass this message to 5 people.....
....or else bad luck will strike you soon.....
-Delete-
RUBBISH!
BA'T BARADO NA NAMAN 'TONG INODORO NATIN?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are warm and emotional. Your feelings often dictate your choices. Nevertheless, you're practical, mechanical, sensible and reliable. People trust your soft heart. They know you're always trying to be a better person. Carve out some time just for yourself this year so that you can learn something new and special. Birthdate of: Michelle Branch, singer; Lindsay Lohan, actress; Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court justice.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Something unusual might occur at home today. Possibly, new technology or related items will enter your home. Something exciting and different will take place.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Bright, new, scientific ideas occur to you today. You feel like Einstein! That's because you're able to think out of the box today. You're open to new points of view.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be careful with your finances today. You might find money; however, you might lose money! You're also tempted to buy something spontaneously, quite suddenly. (Make sure you know what you're doing.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your life has an exciting quality today. You feel frank about who you are. You're open to others, and you don't mind if they see you as eccentric and different or unusual in any way.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Deep, inner realizations could occur to you today. They might be spiritual in some way. Basically, you see that we are all connected. We're all in this Big Soup together. Yup.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A friend could really knock your socks off today. Or perhaps, you meet a real character. Either way, others definitely surprise you. (But it's fun.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): People see that you feel very independent today. If you're unhappy about something, you'll walk. In fact, thoughts about trying to be self-employed are stirring in your mind. (Oh, yeah.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Grab any unexpected chances for education, training or travel that come your way today. Sudden opportunities in these areas are definitely likely.

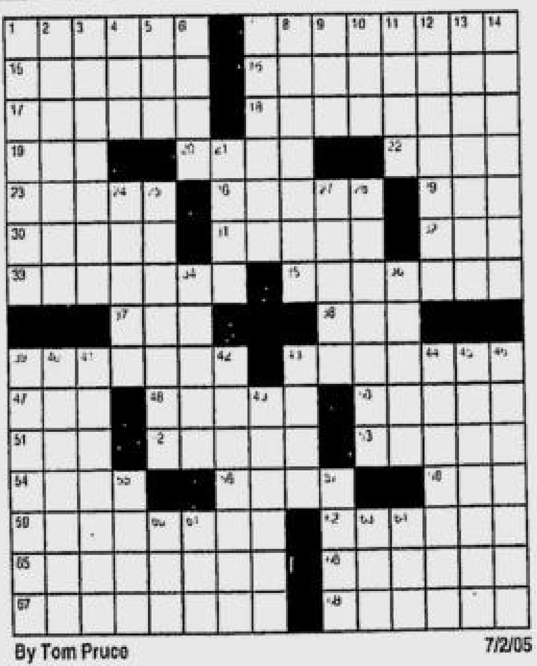
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might get a gift today! You might receive a benefit through your partner. Something unusual will come your way—for sure!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): A conversation with a partner or friend won't go the way you anticipate today. In fact, you can expect a real curve ball. (Wear your catcher's mitt.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): New technology introduced at work might overwhelm you. But anything new seems to be confusing at first. Familiarity with new things will increase your confidence and your skills.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your mind is extremely creative today. Enjoy yourself! Parents however, must be vigilant with children. This is a mildly accident-prone day. Keep an eye on children of all ages!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

7/2/05

ACROSS
1 Sacred Egyptian birds
7 Taxation without representation issue
15 Cardinal great
16 Tsar Ivan's sobriquet
17 Nebraska river
18 Deep-seated hatreds
19 Give a boost to
20 Large hospital room
22 Louver
23 Struck
26 Lascivious looks
29 Eden's first lady
30 Ready to turn in
31 Ethical
32 Neither partner?
33 Sweet potato
35 Pollen makers
37 Porky's pen
38 Needle feature
39 Seminole chief
43 Examine beforehand
47 Sch. grp.
48 Stallone film
50 Evaluates
51 Black goo
52 Villain's look
53 Great __ Lake
54 Andes people
56 Young adult
58 Fetch
59 Highland cousin
62 Live coals
65 Worshiper of beauty
66 After-dinner party
67 Waned
68 Porters

DOWN
1 Thick layers of paint in art
2 Of an eating disorder
3 1969 Redgrave movie
4 Perch
5 Put on the feed bag
6 Passel
7 Multi-speaker system
8 Proffers formally
9 Tentacle
10 Non-invasive diagnostic
11 Mine excavations
12 Eisenhower's boyhood home
13 Little of "Blazing Saddles"
14 Examiners
21 __ mater
24 Curt
25 Magazine staffers
27 Appraiser
28 Murderers
34 Hose material
36 Iron or steel
39 Kind of illusion
40 Marvel Comics man
41 Dead body
42 Transparent material
43 Combustible pile
44 Curio shelves
45 More strict
46 Dangerous African flies
49 Ululated
55 Picnic pests
57 Cozy abode
60 Feminine pronoun
61 Follows
63 Cow's call
64 Very small portion

Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	I	D	G	E		P	H	A	S	E		I	D	A
O	D	I	U	M		H	O	G	A	N		T	V	S
M	O	V	E	S	T	O	L	E	N	G	O	O	D	S
S	L	A	V		E	E	L		D	R	U			
			A	L	A	B	A	M	A		R	C	P	T
C	O	R	R	A	L	E	N	C	L	O	S	U	R	E
A	T	E	A	M			D	I	E	N		L	A	N
R	I	T		O	H	O		I	D	E		L	Y	E
A	T	A		N	A	D	A			T	W	E	E	T
F	I	G	H	T	W	I	T	H	S	W	O	R	D	S
F	S	S	O		A	C	H	E	S	O	N			
			M	A	I		L	E	N		D	E	C	K
U	N	D	E	C	I	D	E	D	S	P	E	R	C	H
S	O	Y		H	A	U	T	E		T	R	A	L	A
E	W	E		E	N	D	E	D		A	S	T	I	N

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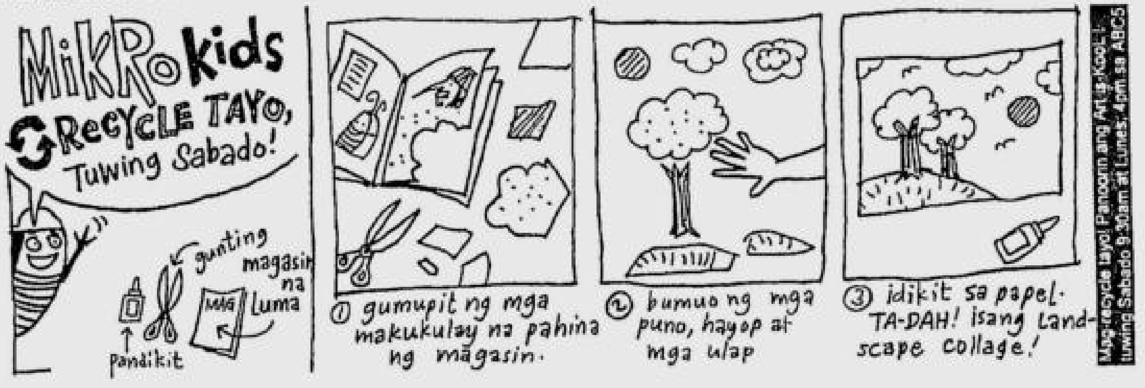
7/2/05

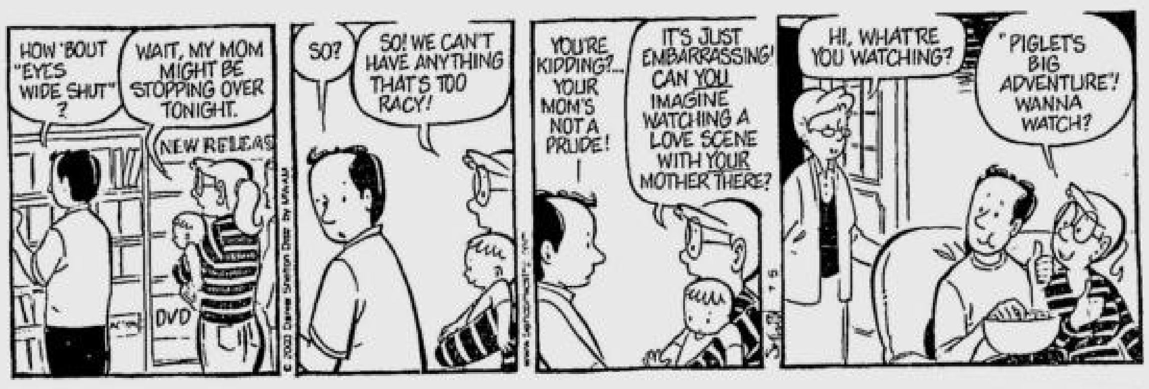
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
gunting
magasin na luma
pandikit
① gumupit ng mga makukulay na pahina ng magasin.
② bumuo ng mga puno, hayop at mga ulap
③ idikit sa papel. TA-DAH! isang Landscape collage!

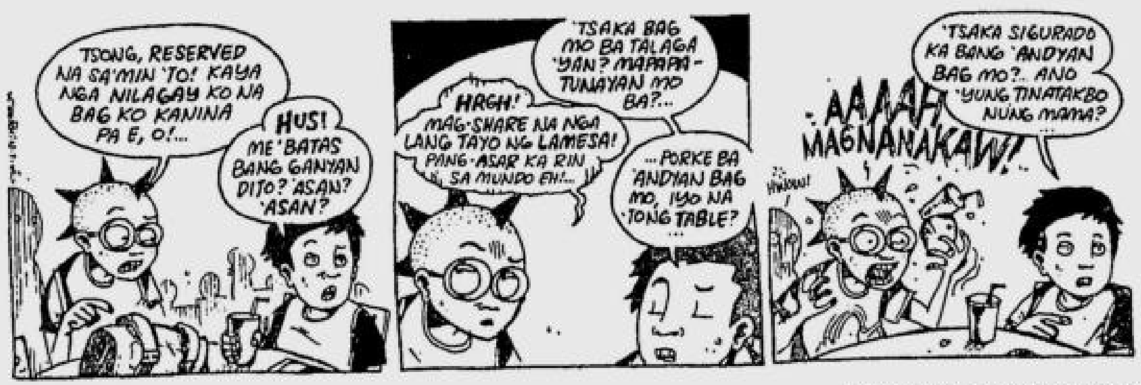
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW 'BOUT "EYES WIDE SHUT"?
WAIT, MY MOM MIGHT BE STOPPING OVER TONIGHT.
NEW RELEAS
DVD
SO?
SO! WE CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT'S TOO RACY!
YOU'RE KIDDING?... YOUR MOM'S NOT A PRUDE!
IT'S JUST EMBARRASSING! CAN YOU IMAGINE WATCHING A LOVE SCENE WITH YOUR MOTHER THERE?
HI, WHAT'RE YOU WATCHING?
"PIGLET'S BIG ADVENTURE"! WANNA WATCH?

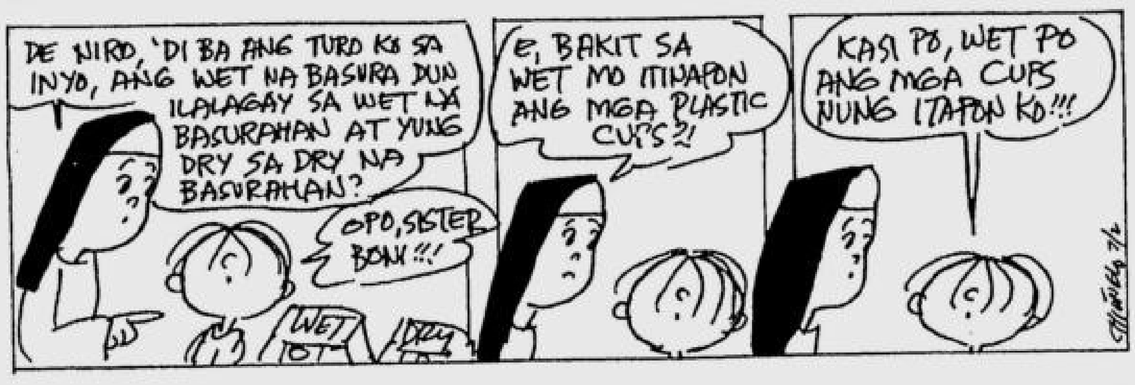
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, RESERVED NA SA'MIN 'TO! KAYA NGA NILAGAY KO NA BAG KO KANINA PA E, O!...
HUS! ME 'BATAS BANG GANYAN DITO? 'ASAN? 'ASAN?
HRGH! MAG-SHARE NA NGA LANG TAYO NG LAMESA! PANG-ASAR KA RIN SA MUNDO EH!...
'TSAKA BAG MO BA TALAGA 'YAN? MAPAPATUNAYAN MO BA?...
...PORKE BA 'ANDYAN BAG MO, IYO NA 'TONG TABLE?
AAAAH! MAGNANAKAW!
'TSAKA SIGURADO KA BANG 'ANDYAN BAG MO?.. ANO 'YUNG TINATAKBO NUNG MAMA?

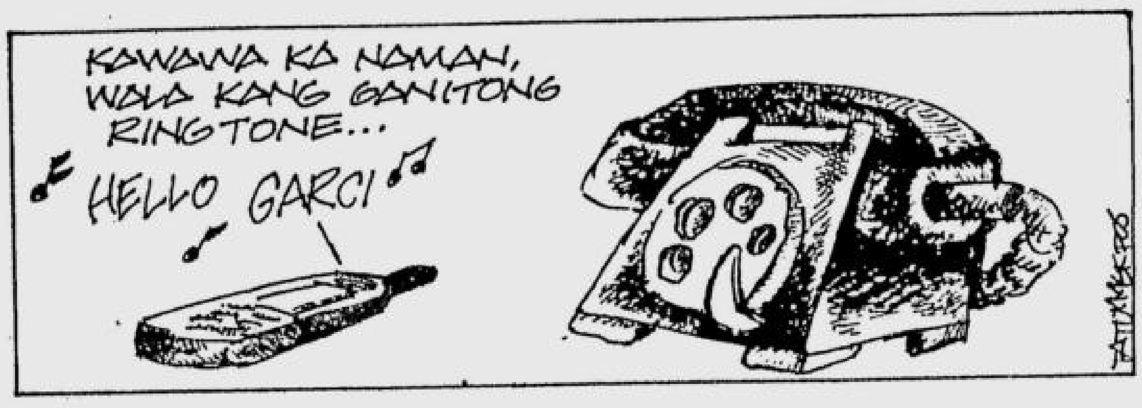
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, 'DI BA ANG TURO KO SA INYO, ANG WET NA BASURA DUN ILALAGAY SA WET NA BASURAHAN AT YUNG DRY SA DRY NA BASURAHAN?
OPO, SISTER BONI!!!
WET
DRY
E, BAKIT SA WET MO ITINAPON ANG MGA PLASTIC CUPS?!
KASI PO, WET PO ANG MGA CUPS NUNG ITAPON KO!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KAWAWA KA NAMAN, WALA KANG GANITONG RINGTONE...
HELLO GARCI

(FROM LEFT) ALCASID, LAUREL, VIOLAN AND ABUEL. Important roles in latest Cayabyab musical.

'Birhen ng Caysasay' musical opens July 7

By Nestor U. Torre

"MAPAGHIMALANG Birhen ng Caysasay," with 17 new melodies composed by Ryan Cayabyab to lyrics by Rito Asilo and Noelani Torre, will be performed at the CCP Little Theater from July 7 to 10.

The religious musical about Our Lady of Caysasay in Taal, Batangas topbills Ogie Alcasid and Cocoy Laurel alternating in the male lead role of Haybing, the Chinese stonemason who was the recipient of the Virgin's most celebrated miracle: Centuries ago, he was decapitated, and then brought back to life.

Miraculous healings

Since then, numerous miraculous healings have been attributed to the Virgin through the years, up to the present. The musical has been mounted to honor Our Lady, and to inspire audiences to intensify their spiritual life.

Top singer Ivy Violan plays Sylvia, another character who desperately seeks the Virgin's healing intercession. Other major roles are played by Tommy Abuel, Nicole David, Ira Marasigan, Araceli Dans, Lou Veloso, Rito Asilo, Andy Bais, Albert Jimenez, Jonas Santos, Jane Diaz, Nadja Matining, Myk Torre and Elijah Castillo.

Together, these gifted players and the other members of the cast bring to life the dramatic story of the Virgin of Caysasay, whose image was found in the net of a fisherman in Taal in the 16th century.

Soon, the Virgin became an important part of the community's religious life. In time, the healing tradition of Our Lady of Caysasay spread far and wide, filling devotees with faith, hope and love.

Distant past

To enable young viewers to more easily relate to the tradition, the musical's story is told from the point of view of a Fil-Am teenager today, who overcomes her distrust and disbelief after being brought back to the distant past.

Set design is by Leo Rialp, musical direction and arrangements by Jun Murillo, lighting design by Dennis Marasigan, choreography by Rito Asilo, costumes by Nadja Matining and Lito Perez, and stage management by Andy Bais.

Both cast and staff members feel especially connected to the musical, because they believe that it can intensify viewers' spiritual life, which we can certainly use more of these days.

Involvement

In Ogie Alcasid's case, he is doing the musical on top of his many engagements, because he believes strongly in the tradition of Our Lady of Caysasay.

Thus, he has found time to rehearse for the show, between a series of performing tours in the United States and Taiwan, and a visit to his family in Australia.

Cocoy, Ivy and Tommy are similarly committed to giving their best to the show, inspiring the other members of the cast to be similarly creative and giving.

Contact 781-5918 or email orlina@pldtdsl.net.)

Marital tips

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WE need wisdom to guide us in marriage. Here are 10 insights to help you through life's difficult journey:

1. Try to choose your partner well. If you don't, your married life will be hell.

2. Your partner is not the Supreme. So, your demands must not be too extreme.

3. No great expectations, no big frustrations!

4. A successful relationship is founded on honesty, *never* on duplicity.

True harmony

5. In love, there's true harmony and trust. Conflict and pain breed self-centeredness and lust.

6. Changing one's partner is not a practical goal, but changing yourself is the aim of the humble soul.

7. If you try to forgive your repentant spouse, peace can remain in your house.

8. Make the Supreme Person the center of your marriage. He will give you real protection and shelter.

9. When a man takes a wife, let the choice be free from selfishness and strife.

10. In arguments, allowing your partner to win will make him/her feel good.

—Best wishes to all married couples!

E-mail lotuspond108@gmail.com

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3 MONSTER IN LAW MTRCB. PG-13 11:35, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15
4 BATMAN BEGINS MTRCB. GP 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
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3 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:20, 3:00, 5:40 8:20, 11:00 PG-13
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:20, 2:55, 5:30 8:05, 10:40 PG-13

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WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 11:55,2:25,4:55,7:25,9:55
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 1:15,3:45,6:15,8:45
BATMAN BEGINS GP 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

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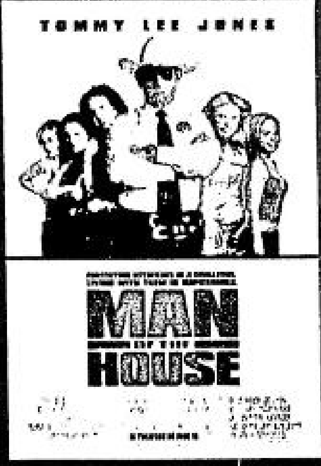

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10 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11 NASAAN KA MAN
12 HOTEL RWANDA

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3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
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8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
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9 NASAAN KA MAN
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3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
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5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
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7 HOTEL RWANDA
8 WAR OF THE WORLDS
9 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
10 HOUSE OF WAX
11 SHUTTER
12 NASAAN KA MAN

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
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sm supercenter sucat
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
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4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

sm city bicutan
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4 BATMAN BEGINS

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2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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4 HOUSE OF WAX
5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
6 PREMONITION
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7 RESERVED
8 HOUSE OF WAX

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2 PREMONITION
3 NASAAN KA MAN
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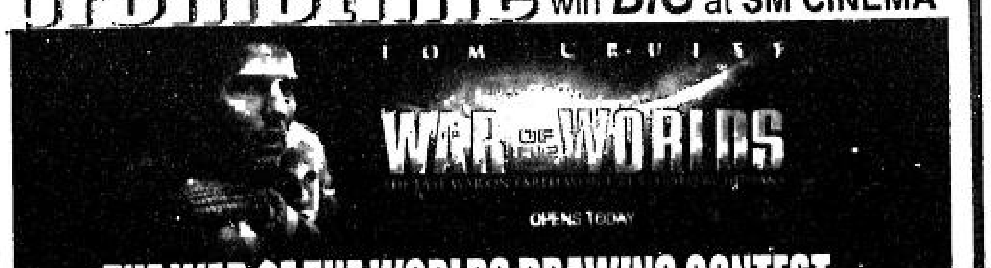

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Comedy and drama in male-dominated Hollywood vehicles

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR the remainder of 2005 and the first quarter of 2006, male stars headline some promising productions:

Jamie Foxx follows up on his award-winning star turn in "Ray" with "Stealth," his most expensive starrer to date. Russell Crowe, who hit it big several seasons ago with "Gladiator," is definitely in the running for a best actor award with his portrayal of a struggling boxer in the inspirational saga, "Cinderella Man."

Whimsical characters

Johnny Depp ("Pirates of the Caribbean") and Ralph Fiennes ("Schindler's List") take on whimsical characters in their new films—as the eccentric chocolate magnate, Willy Wonka, in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," and as the diabolical Lord Voldemort in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," respectively.

In "Must Love Dogs," John Cusack fights Dermot Mulroney for the love of Diane Lane. Antonio Banderas plays the iconic swashbuckler in "The Legend of Zorro." Also going the larger-than-life, heroic route are Kurt Russell as the superhero Commander in "Sky High," and Hugo Weaving as the nameless, masked vigilante in "V for Vendetta," respectively.

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) CROWE ("Cinderella Man"), Sandler ("The Longest Yard"), Scott ("The Dukes of Hazzard"), and Clooney ("Syriana").

DEPP AND BANDERAS. Topbill "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "The Legend of Zorro," respectively.

Ewan McGregor topbills Michael Bay's clone-themed "The Island," while Eric Bana plays a down-on-his-luck poker player in Curtis Hanson's "Lucky You."

For his part, George Clooney takes his cue from Robert De Niro in "Raging Bull," and also puts on a lot of weight to play CIA agent Robert Bauer in his next film, the true-to-life thriller, "Syriana." De Niro won acclaim for his literally "heavyweight" star turn; will Clooney be similarly favored with an award for his?

Comeback trail

Comedian Will Ferrell plays a has-been actor on the comeback trail in "Bewitched," opposite Nicole Kidman. Other comics topbilling new films include Adam Sandler and Chris Rock as prisoners in "The Longest Yard," and Rob Schneider in "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo." And Seann William Scott teams up with Johnny Knoxville as redneck cousins in "The Dukes of Hazzard."

So, why do male stars get to play the best and biggest roles in Hollywood? For one thing, the biggest productions tend to be action-adventure projects, which traditionally have had male protagonists. Another factor is the fact that male stars tend to have longer careers, so producers invest more fully and consistently in them.

The question now is, which of these new male starrers will emerge as the most significant portrayal this year? Out bet is on Russell Crowe in "Cinderella Man."

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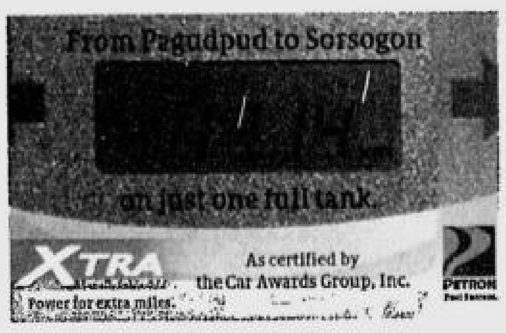

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US investment bank downplays RP crisis

'Opposition is not a credible alternative at the present time'

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTMENT bank Bear Stearns Co. Inc. said the current turmoil in Philippine politics was not expected to cause drastic and adverse effects on the country's ability to access the credit market, believing that pressures to bring down the Arroyo administration were not enough to succeed.

"Philippine public opinion simply has no appetite for another exercise in removal of the President through extra constitutional means," said the US-based bank in its latest paper on the Philippine economy.

Bear Stearns added that efforts of the opposition to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo were weak because its members themselves did not enjoy enough public support.

"The other important factor working in President Arroyo's favor is that the opposition is not a credible alternative at the present time. No opposition figure is in a position to offer himself or herself as a ready and workable replacement for President Arroyo," the bank said.

It added that not even Vice President Noli de Castro was ready to become a replacement for the presidency.

Bear Stearns said the financial markets still have not shown significant adverse reaction on the President's admission last week that hers was the voice on the tape containing the controversial wiretapped conversation with an official of the Commission on Elections.

The bank noted that the cost of the government's long-term domestic borrowing even improved when the rate of the five-year treasury bond fell by 11 basis points to 10.86 percent from 13.03 percent in January. It also noted that the 10-year treasury bond rate decreased to 11.76 percent last week from 12.53 percent in February.

"All of these outcomes represent a reversal of the trend toward higher yields in previous T-bill and T-bond auctions, which had followed the controversies earlier (last June) over the wiretapped tape recording and allegations of gambling payoffs to Arroyo family members," it said.

Early last month, rates of the short-term treasury bills ended consecutive weeks of decline after scandals hounding the Arroyo administration got much public attention. Treasury bill rates have since then been increasing, even forcing the Treasury to reject bids for one-year debt instruments because these were deemed unaffordable.

The bank said the government's efforts to pursue economic and fiscal reforms amid the political noise would give the administration a chance to move ahead. It said the strict implementation of the VAT reform law, which took effect yesterday, would be a gauge of the President's authority to still achieve the government's economic and fiscal targets.

WHAT'S INSIDE

BOI grants perks to 3 SMEs /B2

Ceramic firm out to battle China tiles /B2

Asiatrust to raise P1B to boost capital adequacy /B2

LGUs urge BIR to share tax data /B3

Tanduay shells out P670M to acquire stills /B7

GSIS chief cries fraud in EPCIBank election

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CHIEF of the Government Service Insurance System yesterday protested at the Securities and Exchange Commission the alleged fraud in Equitable PCI Bank's election of an independent director that, in turn, allowed the Go family to maintain majority control of the country's third biggest lender.

In a six-page complaint-affidavit filed at the SEC, GSIS president Winston Garcia particularly contested Roberto Romulo's appointment as an independent director. He accused EPCIBank's top officers—chair Antonio Go, corporate secretary Nilo Divina and directors Anthony Conway and Peter Go Pailan—of conspiring to keep Romulo in the board over the last two years.

Garcia filed the complaint at the SEC ahead of Equitable PCIBank's stockholders' meeting on July 19.

Conway, Go Pailan and Romulo himself were all members of the bank's nomination committee, he noted.

Such a scheme, Garcia said, was "aimed at preserving the artificial majority that the Go family have in the board of directors of the bank to the prejudice of the minority stockholders, including the GSIS and the Social Security System, who were all deprived of their right to have a legitimate and qualified independent di-

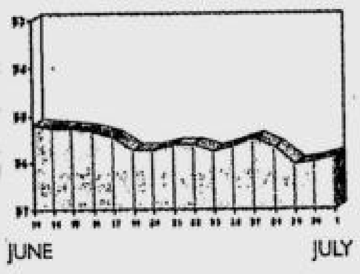
GSIS CHIEF/ B3

GARCIA

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 55.87 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., July 1, 2005

Y 111.09 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., July 1, 2005

GOLD: $437.30-437.80
per ounce Hong Kong, June 30, 2005

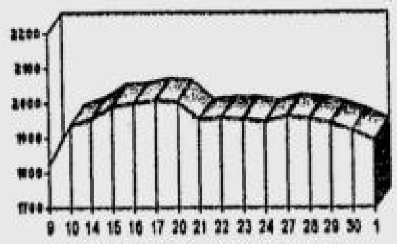
United States	Dollar	0.826173	1.000000	56.1770
Japan	Yen	0.007451	0.009019	0.5067
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480420	1.791900	100.6636
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106311	0.128679	7.2288
Switzerland	Franc	0.644642	0.780275	43.8335
Canada	Dollar	0.674317	0.816193	45.8513
Singapore	Dollar	0.490368	0.593542	33.3434
Australia	Dollar	0.629034	0.761383	42.7722
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.191499	2.652590	149.0145
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220307	0.266660	14.9802
Brunei	Dollar	0.488918	0.591786	33.2448
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000103	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019990	0.024196	1.3593
UAE	Dirham	0.224944	0.272272	15.2954
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210400	67.9966
Argentina	Peso	0.286120	0.346320	19.4552
Brazil	Real	0.350296	0.423998	23.8189
Denmark	Kroner	0.134247	0.162493	9.1284
India	Rupee	0.019014	0.023015	1.2929
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217443	0.263193	14.7854
Mexico	New Peso	0.076889	0.093067	5.2282
New Zealand	Dollar	0.575009	0.695991	39.0987
Norway	Kroner	0.126549	0.153175	8.6049
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013881	0.016801	0.9438
South Africa	Rand	0.124143	0.150263	8.4413
Korea	Won	0.000800	0.000968	0.0544
Sweden	Kroner	0.105907	0.128190	7.2013
Syria	Pound	0.015915	0.019264	1.0822
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026112	0.031606	1.7755
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000385	0.000466	0.0262

STOCK MARKET

Shares down 1.51% on continuing political worries

SHARE prices closed 1.51 percent lower yesterday, extending losses as the opposition stepped up its campaign to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo on charges she cheated in last year's elections, dealers said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

They said major blue chips Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) and Ayala Corp. led decliners amid plans by the opposition to stage fresh street protests against Ms Arroyo.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 20.89 points to 1,895.25 after trading between 1,895.18 and 1,924.23.

Turnover amounted to 325.77 million shares worth P1.53 billion.

The index has fallen 2.66 percent from last week.

The broader all-shares index retreated 12.20 points to 1,161.79.

SHARES/ B6

Meralco awaiting guidelines on VAT charges

By Abigail L. Ho

CUSTOMERS of Manila Electric Co. will be spared from the value-added tax (VAT), at least for this month, as the company will only reflect the new tax in its August billing while awaiting final guidelines on the tax implementation from the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Meralco VAT implementation task force chair Anthony Rosete said the deferment was mainly because the distribution utility's billing cycle did not follow the calendar month.

For example, while the VAT took effect yesterday, a Meralco customer's July billing would include some parts of June consumption in it. The June part of the bill would not be subject to VAT as only the July consumption would be covered by the new law.

A customer with a billing cycle of June 10 to July 9, therefore, would only have to shoulder the VAT impact for his consumption during the first nine days of this month.

"Some proportionate computations will have to be undertaken, but this will not be reflected yet in the July 2005 bills," Rosete said in a state-

MERALCO/ B3

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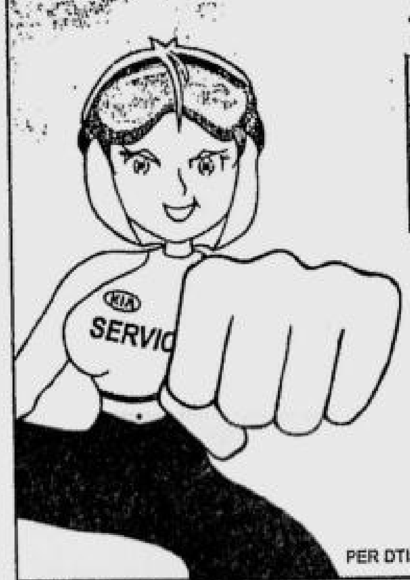

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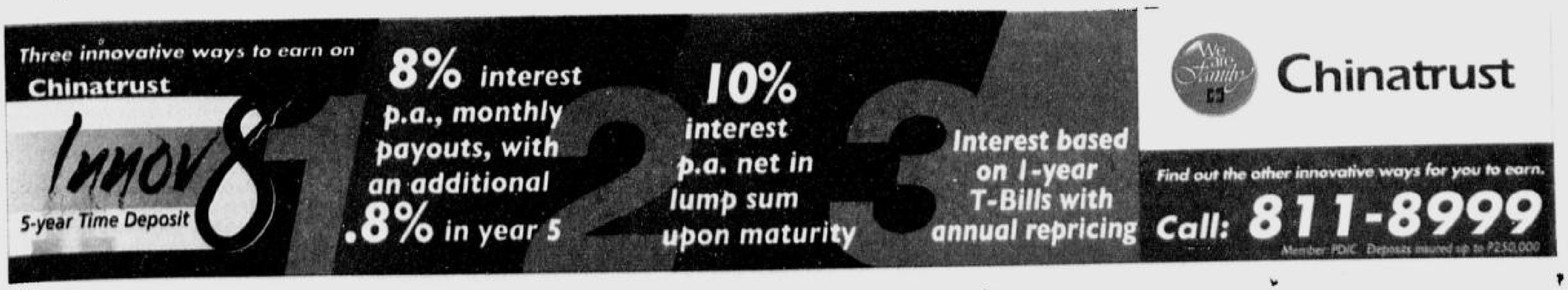
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Asiatrust to raise P1B to boost capital adequacy

By Doris C. Dumlao

PUBLICLY listed development bank Asiatrust Bank is set to issue tier 2 capital or subordinated debt worth close to P1 billion to boost its capital adequacy.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Asiatrust spokesperson Ernesto Manansala said the bank's board of directors had appointed BDO Capital and Investment Corp. as its lead arranger for the offering.

In a separate interview with the INQUIRER, BDO Capital executive vice president Eduardo Francisco said the issuance, targeted by September, would be denominated in pesos.

Francisco said Asiatrust was unfazed by the political situation, saying that there was enough cash and investors in the market looking for attractive paper.

He said that since Asiatrust's proposed issuance was not large, it could be easily absorbed by the local market.

As of end-2004, Asiatrust's CAR or the ratio of capital funds to risk assets stood at 13.88 percent.

Its total resources stood at P12.24 billion at the end of last year, while capital funds amounted to P1.6 billion.

Formerly known as Quezon City Development Bank when it was set up in 1960, Asiatrust was one of the first private development banks in the country and the first banking institution to be set up and based in Quezon City.

Since its inception, the bank's goal and purpose has been to provide the needed financial assistance to entrepreneurs.

It primarily caters to high-growth small and medium-sized business enterprises engaged in commercial, industrial, export and service sectors.

P26M IN INVESTMENTS

BOI grants perks to 3 SMEs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments has granted incentives to three projects worth P26 million involving small and medium enterprises.

The projects include Discovery International Travel Corp.'s P10-million venture in the production of luggage, traveling bags and garment bags.

Filipino-owned DITC, which has a factory in Plaridel, Bulacan, would be creating 400 new jobs to support the project.

Another project is Betise Inc.'s P3-million venture in the manufacturing of handcrafted bags.

Owned by style icon and London-educated designer Bea Valdes, Betise would export 90 percent of its output to high-end markets in the United States, Canada, China, Japan and Europe.

According to the BOI, the company would be producing "one-of-a-kind handcrafted bags embellished with various accessories such as semi-precious stones, crystals, natural stones, beads, sequins, feathers, leather and fabrics.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos, who sits as BOI chair, said the Department of Trade and Industry was biased toward the development of SMEs because these firms create a substantial number of jobs.

"We are encouraging these firms to go into exports by giving them incentives [that will] enable them to compete in the world market," he said.

A third project is the P13-million venture of Tapat Industries Philippines Inc.

Tapat will put up a manufacturing facility for bulk material handling systems for industrial and agricultural uses.

RIPI is a unit of Minnesota-based Rapat Corp., an international organization that provides engineered solutions for material handling needs, with access to all major shipping carriers.

Santos said Rapat found the country as a strategic site for its first branch in Asia after an extensive search for an area of expansion.

RIPI would design and build bulk material handling systems for fruits, grains, feeds, wood and wood fiber, fertilizer, sand and gravel, cement, chemical processing, and waste and water treatment.

The facility, a first in the country, would be put up in the Philexcel Busines Park in Clarkfield in Pampanga.

Ceramic firm out to battle China tiles

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—For the country's biggest manufacturer of ceramic tiles, having high quality replacement products is the best way to fight the rampant smuggling of China-made ceramic tiles.

"Quality-wise, the smuggled ceramic tiles that come from China fall way below our standards," claimed Eduardo de la Rama, Mariwasa Manufacturing Inc. (MMI) external consultant.

The 41-year-old MMI is the biggest in the Philippines and has installed the longest tile decorating line in Southeast Asia at the plant in Barangay San Antonio of this town.

MMI's plant that sits on a 24-hectare property started operations in 1997.

Raw materials from local sources, such as red clay from Nueva Ecija and lahar from Pampanga, are used to produce world-class ceramic tiles exported to Australia and Southeast Asia.

MMI has pioneered the manufacturing process for vitrified floor tiles, big-size wall tiles and third-fired ceramic tiles.

"Another big advantage we have over smuggled tiles is our availability of replacements. Whenever a tile breaks, we always have a ready replacement with the exact quality of the broken one," De la Rama said.

But like all the members of the Association of Tile Manufacturers of the Philippines, MMI was also affected by the rampant tile smuggling.

Only six months ago, 49 container vans of China-made tiles reportedly arrived at the Batangas port.

Out of the 49 container vans, only 29 had the permit from the Bureau of Customs, but all of them were smuggled out of the port.

The smuggled tiles cost P5 a piece while locally made tiles are priced at P10 each.

"From January to May, the sales of local tile manufacturers went down. It was only this June that sales were able to pick up. Smuggling really affected the local tile industry, but then, when the people who bought the imported tiles discovered that the China-made tiles break and tarnish easily, there was no replacement," De la Rama said. *Mei Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RP moves rice import tender

THE NATIONAL Food Authority said on Friday it had postponed its tender to buy 185,000 tons of rice by a day to July 21 to enable more suppliers to join.

NFA administrator Gregorio Tan said his firm has also lowered the required bid bond of prospective suppliers to 3 percent from 10 percent.

The maximum volume that private firms could supply was doubled to 50,000 tons each from 25,000 tons.

A government supplier can offer a maximum of 150,000 tons.

The NFA, the rice importing arm of the Philippine government, plans to buy 185,000 tons of either 15-percent or 25-percent broken rice for August/September delivery for buffer stocks.

The rice should be sourced either from Australia, China, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam or the United States, Tan said.

The Philippines has set a budget of P3.32 billion ($59.6 million) for the imports.

Last month, the government announced it would hold another tender on July 12 to buy 92,000 tons of rice. Another state trading firm was also given a quota to buy 15,000 tons of rice, Tan said.

The Philippines has so far bought 1.508 million tons of rice, the staple food of its more than 80 million population.

The country raised on Saturday its 2005 rice import requirement to 1.8 million tons from an earlier projection of 1.6 million as a rain shortfall in the first half led farmers to delay planting.

The rice shortfall was also due to damage from four storms in November and December. It is the highest shortfall since 1998 when the country imported 2.1 million tons after th. harvest suffered from severe weather.

The country imported 985,000 tons of rice in 2004. *Reuters*

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PHILIPPINE BATTLE CALENDAR:

	WEEKLY FINALS	REGIONAL FINALS
Cebu	Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23	Oct. 8
Davao	Aug. 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Oct. 15
Baguio	Aug. 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7	Oct. 22
Manila	Aug. 5, 12,19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7, 14	Oct. 27

PRIZES

Weekly		P 20,000
Regional Finals		P 100,000
Grand National Finals	1st Prize	P 500,000
	2nd Prize	P 300,000
	3rd Prize	P 200,000

GRAND NATIONAL FINALS AT THE ALIW THEATER - OCT. 29

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Smart asks NTC to bring down frequency fees

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. is asking the National Telecommunications Commission to bring down the charges for the use of airwaves, claiming that current rates are "exorbitant" and "unreasonable."

Smart and its subsidiary Meridian Telecom Inc. are paying the spectrum users fee to the NTC under protest. Both have also asked the NTC not to apply a 25-percent penalty on the billing of spectrum fees that are under protest.

The NTC collects a fee from telco firms for the use of radio frequencies or spectrum. The wireless firms make use of radiowaves, allowing their subscribers to communicate.

The NTC imposes multiplier values of P2.50 for every radio station lower than 1 gigahertz, P2 for a station between 1 and 10 gigahertz, P1.50 for a station between 10 and 20 gigahertz and P1.25 for 20 gigahertz and above.

The wireless giant said the multipliers were "quite high" since the point-to-point networks were just being used to support its wireless network.

The presence of other operators in areas assigned to Smart also interfere with the quality of the radio signal.

"This affects our networks output performance in providing the best wireless service to our subscribers, and future plans for more intensive coverage," Smart said in a letter to the NTC.

The country's largest wireless carrier is contesting the P17.7 million in additional billing which the NTC imposed as "spectrum users fee" for 2003. The figure was on top of the P68 million Smart paid in 2004.

Meridian said that, based on its own computation, it should only settle P2.2 million in outstanding spectrum fees from 2001 to 2004, instead of the NTC's P5.74-million bill.

Smart paid the NTC P84.4 million in spectrum fees this year under protest, as it had been doing over the last couple of years. The wireless giant said the NTC should consider the costs incurred in operating and maintaining the facilities as well as the economic conditions in a particular area where a radio station was put up.

In the first half of 2004, the NTC raised P381 million from spectrum fees, out of the total P488 million it generated. The agency also collects regulatory fees and other charges related to filing and licensing.

CRACKDOWN ON TAX DELINQUENTS

LGUs urge BIR to share tax data

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL government units want the Bureau of Internal Revenue to share its tax data base with them to boost the tax collection efforts of cities, municipalities and provinces.

The Philippine Association of City Treasurers of the Philippines (Pactap) said it wanted to intensify the anti-tax evasion campaign of LGUs to increase the collection of much-needed revenues.

Pactap president Victor Endriga said that financial data coming from the BIR, such as the amount of gross receipts or sales of companies, would aid the LGUs in collecting local taxes from the business establishments.

Businesses pay national taxes—such as the 35-percent income tax, the 10-percent value-added tax, etc.—to the national government through the BIR. They are likewise required to remit local taxes, including the business tax whose minimum rate is 50 percent of one percent of a company's gross receipts, and whose maximum rate is 3 percent.

Endriga said the proposed data-sharing scheme would also benefit the BIR's own anti-tax evasion drive by allowing the revenue agency to access data gathered by the LGUs.

The BIR, however, is cold to the proposed data-sharing, saying that the secrecy provision of the National Internal Revenue Code (also called the tax code) prohibits the BIR from divulging taxpayer information even to LGUs.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said LGUs should push for a law amending the tax code if they want to access taxpayers' data from the BIR.

Endriga, for his part, said that an LGU is empowered by the Local Government Code of the Philippines to access from the BIR data pertaining to business establishments within its area.

Patap members insisted that the BIR would not be violating the secrecy provision of the tax code because the LGUs should not be considered external parties.

Pactap said local government treasurers work under the Department of Finance—the same agency to which the BIR is attached.

Endriga said LGUs and the BIR could achieve much in their revenue-raising efforts if there would be a data-sharing agreement between them. He said LGUs could help the BIR to determine the appropriate number of businesses in operation. Endriga noted that the Quezon City government has registered 65,000 establishments, but that, in the BIR's records, the number of businesses operating in Quezon City is only 30,000.

The city treasurers have also volunteered to help the BIR in collecting VAT from business establishments within their respective jurisdictions. Pactap said deputizing city treasurers to become VAT collecting agents would help the BIR plug the loss of billion of pesos due to tax delinquent businesses.

GSIS chief cries fraud . . .

From page B1

rector in the board."

Citing a provision in the Securities Regulation Code, Garcia said the "independent" directors must not be an officer or employee of the corporation where they serve, as such as they must not have been directors, officers or employees of any affiliate, subsidiary or related company thereof.

He noted that Romulo was not qualified to be an independent director being a board member of Equicom Systems Management Inc., a company which is a joint venture of the Equitable Group and Telus International.

"As an independent director, Attorney Romulo is mandated by law to exercise his own independent judgment free from the influence of the other members of the board and other related interests. However, the actions he had taken while serving as independent director only showed his partiality in favor of the Go family," Garcia said.

"In all the issues brought to the board for decision, Atty. Romulo always sided with all the nominee directors of the Go family especially with regard to actions that would perpetuate their hold and influence on the affairs of the bank despite the fact that they are no longer the majority stockholders," he stressed.

Garcia also cited several provisions in the implementing rules of the SRC on independent directors to support his protest against Romulo's election.

The GSIS has a 12-percent stake and occupies a seat in the 15-member board of EPCIBank.

As EPCIBank's stockholders' meeting draws near, the government is batting for "ample leverage" in the bank's 15-member board by expanding its representation from five to seven directors in proportion to its equity interest.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima himself had sent letters to the Social Security System and GSIS urging them to protect their shares and use their combined voting stock as "agents" of change in the promotion of good corporate governance in EPCIBank.

The SSS is already the single biggest stockholder in EPCIB with a 29-percent stake.

Meralco awaiting . . .

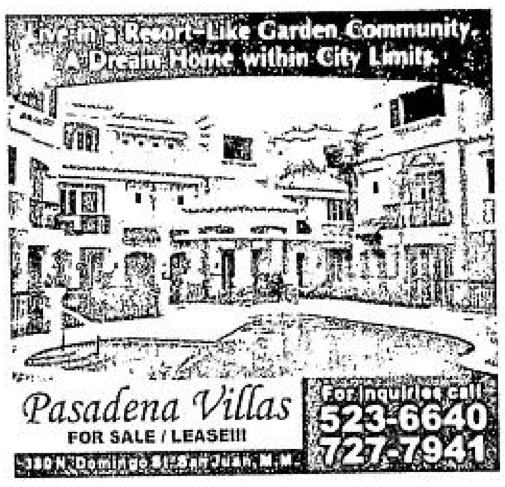
From page B1

ment yesterday.

He said Meralco still had to wait for the final guidelines on the implementation of the VAT from the ERC before it could work out a final formula on how to do pro-rated calculations.

The ERC has scheduled a public hearing on the draft guidelines governing the power sector's implementation of the VAT on July 5.

"We have to wait for the ERC's final guidelines to be able to discuss the details on how the VAT implementation will be carried out. As soon as we receive the order from ERC, we will inform our customers accordingly," Rosete said.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DENYO 25KVA SOUNDPROOF; OLYMPIAN 62.5 KVA; DETROIT 65KVA; AIRMAN COMPRESSOR; WELDING MACHINE; S/S PREPARATION TABLE; S/S RANGE HOOD; S/S BAINE MARIE; S/S LOW PRESSURE STOVE; S/S HIGH PRESSURE STOVE; S/S DIMSUM STEAMER; S/S COFFEE BREWING MACHINE; SHOWCASE CHILLER; REF; AIRCON; RESTAURANT TABLES & CHAIRS; SOFA BEDS; DRESSER CABINET; DINING SET; JAPANESE CABINET; ANTIQUE CABINET NARRA UNIQUE FURNITURES; EXECUTIVE DESK; 100 PCS. OFFICE CHAIRS; HOSPITAL BED; HOSPITAL CABINET W/ FRIDGE; GONDOLA; COMPUTER ACCESSORIES; TV; SPEAKERS; 100 CHRISTMAS BULBS; DEWARTING MACHINE; 5-IN-1 FACIAL MACHINE; STEEL LADDER; GLASSWARE; KITCHENWARE; HARDWARE; ASSTD. SCRAP METALS; WOOD SCRAPS AND MANY MORE...
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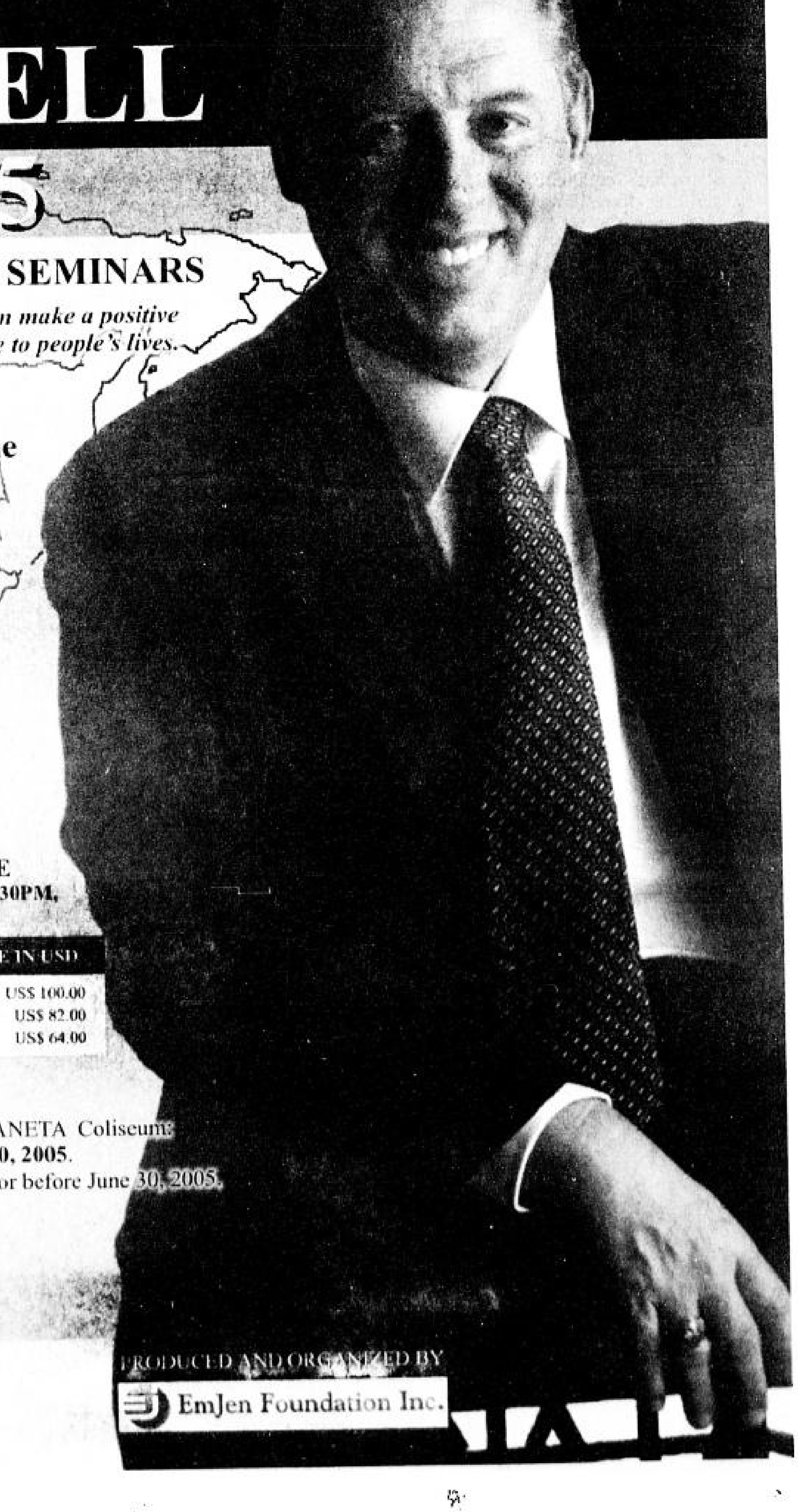

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Nasa comet crash to seek building blocks of life

NATIONAL Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) scientists are preparing to slam a coffee table-sized spacecraft into a comet half the size of Manhattan on July 4 in a cosmic smashup aimed at discovering the building blocks of life on Earth.

The mission, known as Deep Impact, aims to uncover and photograph pristine material formed billions of years ago during the creation of the universe by blasting a crater the size of a football stadium into comet Tempel 1.

Comets are composed of ice, gas and dust from the solar system's farthest and coldest regions. They often show bursts of activity, during which parts of their crusty surfaces lift off to create fan-shaped jets of dust.

They are also "carriers of basic chemical building blocks for allowing life to occur," Rick Gremmier, project manager for the Nasa mission, said on Wednesday. "We want to find out what those materials were ... and put a piece in the puzzle of how the solar system was formed."

One theory, Gremmier said, is that comets first brought water to Earth by crashing into its surface.

Impact on Monday

At 0552 GMT (1:51 p.m. in Manila) on Monday, the 350-kg copper-fortified impactor is expected to smash into Tempel 1 at 23,000 miles an hour, a speed that would pare the flight from New York to Los Angeles down to six minutes.

Scientists anticipate the crash will eject a spray of ice and dust from the comet's crusty surface and reveal the material beneath it.

The comet will be about 133.6 million km away from Earth.

Blizzard of particles

Deep Impact, the spacecraft that carried and will launch the impactor, will be about 310 miles (500 km) away from the comet at the time of the planned collision and will have about 13 minutes after the blast to capture images and data before it weathers a blizzard of particles thrown out of the comet's nucleus.

The crash is expected to produce a hole that could range in size from that of a small house to a football stadium, depending on the density of comet's nucleus. It is not expected to change the comet's path.

There are cameras aboard both the impactor and the main craft, and the blast will also be observed by the Hubble, Spitzer and Chandra space telescopes.

Biggest challenge

There is also the chance that the mission could drift off course.

The biggest challenge is the comet itself, Gremmier said, as each is different in its makeup and behavior.

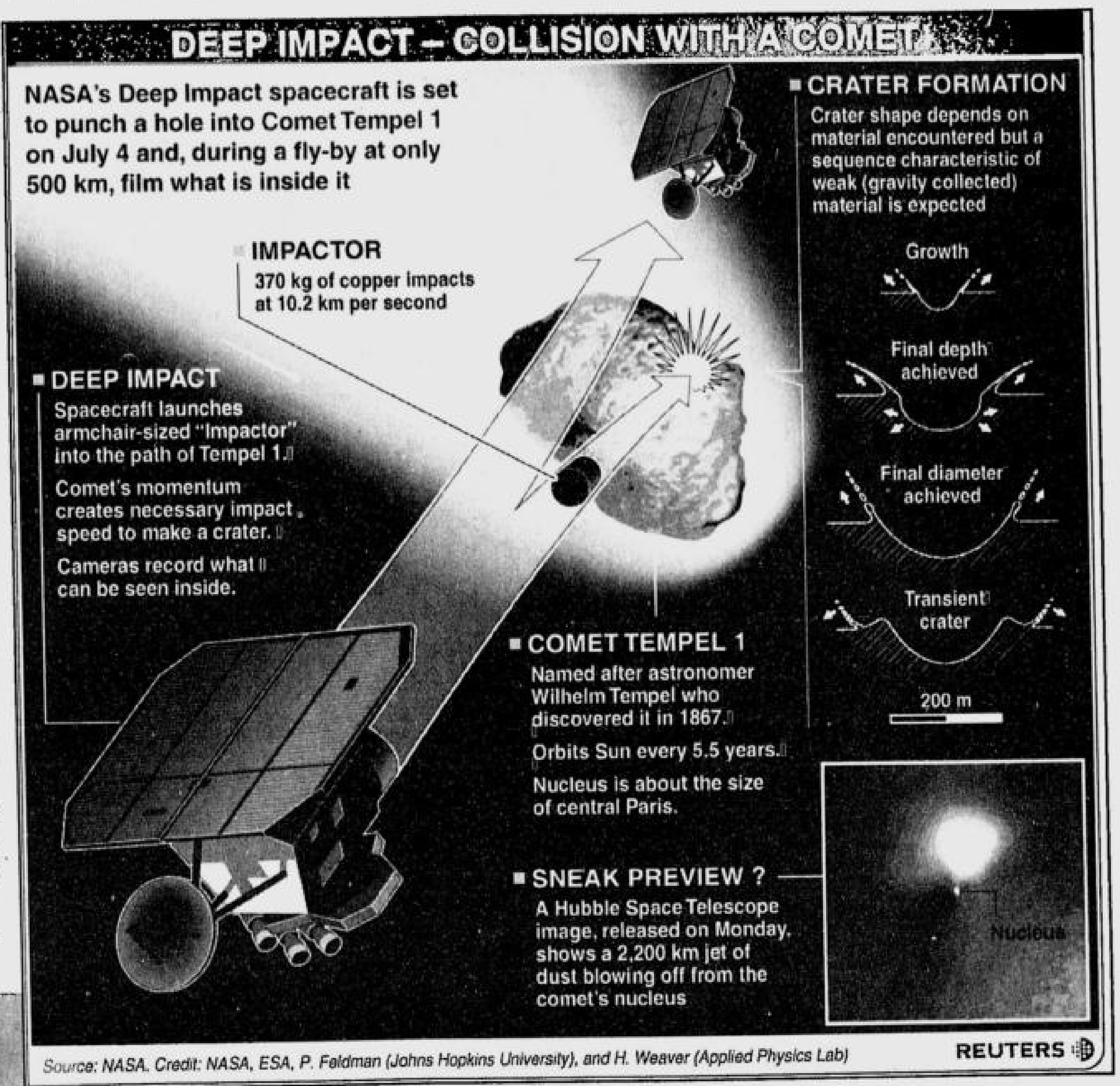
"The ultimate challenge is just trying to target a comet that is moving that fast, and also have independently the fly-by spacecraft observing the same spot as that impact," Gremmier said.

Even if the impact fails, the mission will still produce the best images to date of a comet nucleus, Gremmier said.

Earlier this week, astronomers got a preview of the orbital pyrotechnics when Tempel 1's volatile nucleus blew off a stream of dust captured by the Hubble Space Telescope.

Because scientists do not know how bright the impact will be, they cannot say how easy it will be for backyard astronomers to see it. Those with the best chance are people with medium-powered telescopes in the western United States, parts of Mexico, and New Zealand, they said.

Reuters



DEEP IMPACT – COLLISION WITH A COMET

NASA's Deep Impact spacecraft is set to punch a hole into Comet Tempel 1 on July 4 and, during a fly-by at only 500 km, film what is inside it

IMPACTOR
370 kg of copper impacts at 10.2 km per second

DEEP IMPACT
Spacecraft launches armchair-sized "Impactor" into the path of Tempel 1.
Comet's momentum creates necessary impact speed to make a crater.
Cameras record what can be seen inside.

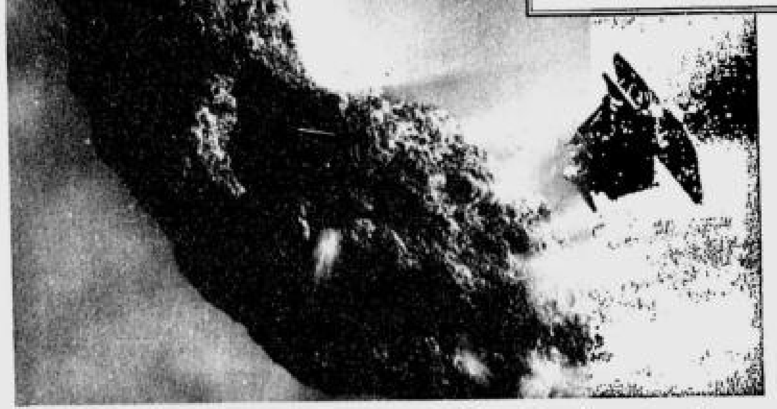
COMET TEMPEL 1
Named after astronomer Wilhelm Tempel who discovered it in 1867.
Orbits Sun every 5.5 years.
Nucleus is about the size of central Paris.

SNEAK PREVIEW ?
A Hubble Space Telescope image, released on Monday, shows a 2,200 km jet of dust blowing off from the comet's nucleus

CRATER FORMATION
Crater shape depends on material encountered but a sequence characteristic of weak (gravity collected) material is expected

Source: NASA. Credit: NASA, ESA, P. Feldman (Johns Hopkins University), and H. Weaver (Applied Physics Lab)

REUTERS



IN this artist illustration, an impactor is released at the crater of comet Tempel I.
REUTERS/PAT RAWLINGS/NASA/JPL/UMD/HANDOUT

Drosophila diet plan

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

A DIET, the dictionary says, is made up of the food and drink one regularly ingests. Yet many people tend to associate the term with a weight-loss regimen, which suggests a temporary change of eating habits to achieve a specific health-oriented goal, usually weight loss. Upon reaching this goal, however, the dieter tends to lapse back into his old eating habits, which only serves to reinforce the notion of a diet's impermanence.

There is an incentive to make a lasting change in one's eating habits: decades of research have shown that dietary restriction (DR) can lead to a longer life span.

DR is more popularly known as caloric restriction, in part because the pioneering scientific studies on this topic involving rats demonstrated that the key to living longer isn't just eating less, or eating only certain food groups, but rather eating lower-calorie meals.

Not in fruit fly

Caloric restriction works well in the rat model but not quite so well in another common model organism: the fruit fly.

In a paper which appears in this month's issue of the open-access journal PLoS Biology, biologist Linda Partridge and her colleagues at the University College London demonstrate that when it comes to lengthening the Drosophila's life span, the meal's nutritional quality matters more than its caloric quantity.

In a study that questions just how interchangeable the terms "caloric restriction" and "dietary restriction" are, Partridge et al. diluted the nutritional composition of the typical food provided to fruit flies to levels previously shown to help extend their life spans.

4 groups

To check the impact of caloric restriction, researchers prepared food with reduced sugar concentrations (DR sugar) and fed it to one group of fruit flies. Another group was given food with reduced protein levels, in this case, yeast (DR yeast). A third group was given food with reduced sugar and reduced yeast levels (DR SY). A final group of fruit flies served as the control and fed unaltered food.

On average, a fruit fly living on the control food medium had a median life span of nearly 30 days and a maximum life span of about 45 days. The DR sugar group lived a few days longer than the control group, while the DR yeast and DR SY groups had median and maximum life spans that were nearly two weeks longer than the control group, which roughly translates to a 150 percent increase in the lucky fruit flies' life expectancy.

Switch experiment

Partridge et al. conducted a second experiment to see the effects of switching the fruit flies from regular food to one of the DR alternatives. They found that two days after switching from regular food to the DR and DR SY food, the life expectancy of the fruit flies had been extended just as if they'd been eating the latter foods all their lives. No such effect was noted for the flies that switched to the DR sugar food.

In the second half of the switch experiment, the life spans of most fruit flies that switched from one food medium to another in mid-life (or thereabouts) were unaltered. The sole exception was the group of fruit flies that first ate the DR SY food and then switched to the DR sugar food. Their mortality rate increased rapidly, though it wasn't as bad as that of the group that spent their entire lives eating the control food.

More research

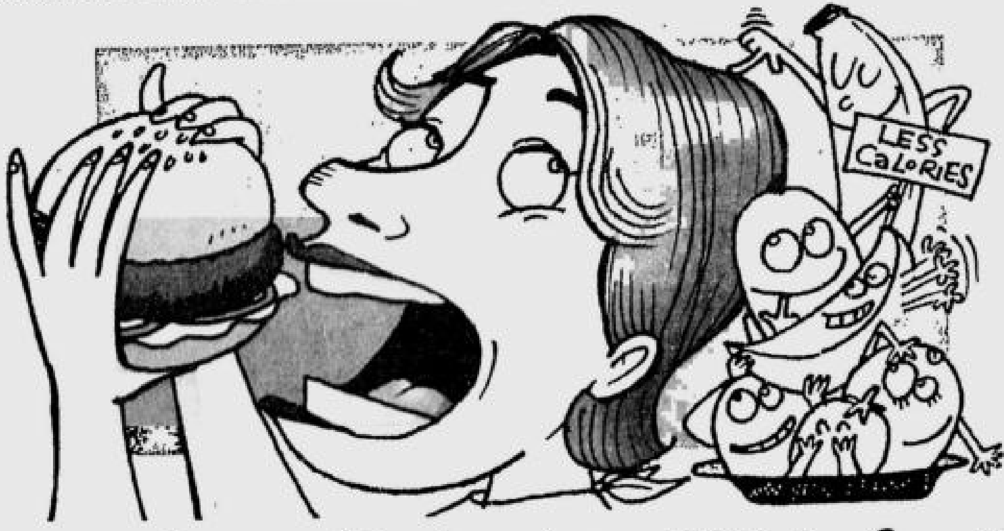
If these results would work for humans, this could have been the most interesting infomercial ever made. A 30-minute show dedicated solely to a diet plan made memorable by its legitimately, scientifically backed claim to increase one's life span to one-and-a-half times the typical life expectancy. Yet, in the interests of accuracy, had this infomercial been made based on Partridge et al.'s results, the hosts would have to admit that this diet works solely for fruit flies.

At least, it does at the moment.

More research will have to be conducted in other model organisms to see if caloric restriction is the norm or the exception, to learn what other nutrients could play a role in altering an organism's life expectancy, and, most important, the mechanisms by which a life span can be so dramatically altered.

With the latter information, extending human life expectancy so that everyone can live to meet several generations of descendants and experience the wonders of the next century could move from the realm of possibility to reality. Until then, however, the best humans can do is try caloric restriction and see how much of a difference it makes in their own lives.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.



Smoking linked to TB infection, says study

SMOKING seems to boost the risk of tuberculosis, possibly by weakening the lungs' resistance to the TB bacterium, a South African study says.

Researchers at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town asked 2,400 local adults about their smoking habits and got them to undergo a skin test for TB. The researchers took the volunteers' age, sex, educational level, fat and income into account.

Of 1,300 people who were current or ex-smokers, 82 percent tested positive for TB, whereas among the 1,100 people who had never smoked, the rate was 70 percent.

The reason for the smoking-TB link is unclear, the researchers say.

However, they point to previous studies that show smoking suppresses the activity of protective white-blood cells in the lungs and blood, and this may hamper the immune system's ability to combat the TB bug.

Testing positive for the TB bacterium does not mean by itself that someone has the disease. Many people can carry the bacteria but do not fall sick from it or spread it.

Repeated or prolonged exposure to someone with TB disease is generally necessary before a person will fall sick.

AFP

Contest questions

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

A PHILIPPINE team placed second overall in the recent Philippine Elementary Math International Competition (Pemic), where 168 students from 11 countries matched wits. Here are samples of actual contest questions.

1. The numbers 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, ..., where each number is three greater than the number preceding it, are written in order in a book, one hundred to a page. The first group of one hundred numbers begins on page 526. On which page will the number 2005 be located?

2. Four friends were racing side by side down a dusty staircase. Peter went down two steps at a time, Bruce three steps at a time, Jessica four steps at a time, and Maitreyi five steps at a time. If the only steps with all four footprints were at the top and the bottom, how many steps had only one person's footprint?

Basket and potatoes

3. A basket and 16 potatoes are placed in a straight line at equal intervals of 6 meters, with the basket fixed at one end. What is the shortest possible time for Jose to bring the potatoes one by one into the basket, if he starts from where the basket is and runs at an average speed of 3 meters per second?

4. A sequence of digits is formed by writing the digits from the natural numbers in the order that they appear. The sequence starts: 123456789101112... What is the 2005th digit in the sequence?

5. Donuts are sold only in boxes of 7, 13, or 25. To buy 14 donuts you must order two boxes of 7, but you cannot buy exactly 15 since no combination of boxes contains 15 donuts. What is the largest number of donuts that cannot be ordered using combinations of these boxes?

High school level

A Philippine team emerged fourth overall in the high school-level Asia Intercities Teenagers' Math Olympiad, where 124 students from six countries competed against each other. Here are samples of what they faced:

1. Three motorists A, B and C often travel on a certain highway, and each motorist always travels at a constant speed. A is the fastest of the three and C is the slowest. One day when the three travel in the same direction, B overtakes C. Five minutes later, A overtakes C. In another three minutes, A overtakes B. On another occasion when they again travel in the same direction, A overtakes B first. Nine minutes later, A overtakes C. When will B overtake C?

2. The number 2^{22} has exactly one prime factor greater than 1000. Find it.

3. A. Alloway, B. Bennington, C. Cunningham, D. Dunstan, and E. Elmsby are the five senior members of the Devonshire Polo Club. Each owns a pony that is named after the wife of one of the others. Mr. Alloway's pony is named Georgette; Mr. Cunningham owns Jasmine; and Mr. Elmsby owns Ines. Francine, owned by Mr. Dunstan, is named after Alloway's wife. Georgette's husband owns the pony that is named after Mr. Bennington's wife. Helene Cunningham is the only wife who knows how to ride a horse. Who is Jasmine's husband?

4. On the sides of triangle ABC are drawn three similar isosceles triangles: APB (with $AP = PB$), AQC (with $AQ = QC$) and BRC (with $BR = RC$). Triangles APB and AQC lie outside triangle ABC. Point A and point R are on the same side of line BC. Prove that quadrilateral $PAQR$ is a parallelogram.

5. A child on a pogo stick jumps 1m on the first jump, 2m on the second jump, 4m on the third jump, ..., 2^{n-1}m on the nth jump. Can the child get back to the starting point by a judicious choice of directions? Prove your answer.

OIL WE NEED TO KNOW

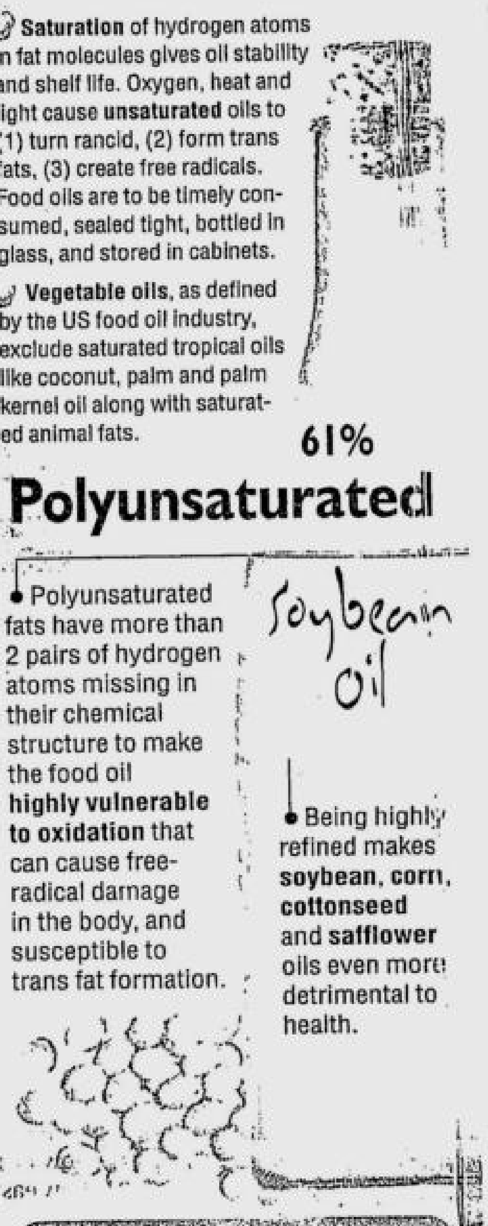
Text and art by Lynett A. Villariba

Fat Facts 2

A generation ago, imported vegetable oil producers told Filipino consumers to replace their traditional coconut oil with "healthier" soybean and corn oils. Now, independent nutritional biochemists are finding otherwise.

Saturation of hydrogen atoms in fat molecules gives oil stability and shelf life. Oxygen, heat and light cause **unsaturated** oils to (1) turn rancid, (2) form trans fats, (3) create free radicals. Food oils are to be timely consumed, sealed tight, bottled in glass, and stored in cabinets.

Vegetable oils, as defined by the US food oil industry, exclude saturated tropical oils like coconut, palm and palm kernel oil along with saturated animal fats.



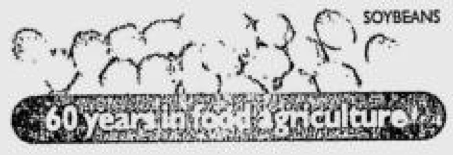
- Polyunsaturated fats have more than 2 pairs of hydrogen atoms missing in their chemical structure to make the food oil **highly vulnerable to oxidation** that can cause free-radical damage in the body, and susceptible to trans fat formation.
- Being highly refined makes **soybean, corn, cottonseed** and **safflower** oils even more detrimental to health.

Highly refined

In the 1930s, soybean oil was originally used in the US as a valued base for paints and varnishes. But when chemists learned how to make cheaper paints from petroleum, producers shifted to selling the oil as food.

To make it fit for human consumption, soybean oil–as well as other polyunsaturated oils that are as difficult to extract–has to be refined, bleached and deodorized under high heat in hydraulic presses and solvent extraction methods. To retard oxidation, chemical preservatives are added .

In late 1940, soybean and corn oils were partially hydrogenated to make them stable for use in processed foods .



60 years in food agriculture

In the 1950s, when saturated fats were being linked to heart disease, vegetable oil producers seized the opportunity to push their oil as a healthy substitute to all saturated fats including tropical vegetable oils.

Foodmakers and restaurants were convinced to switch from natural saturated oils to partially hydrogenated soybean oil.

By the time biochemists found out its ill health effects, nearly 80% of all the vegetable oils used in the United States is soybean, three fourths of which is hydrogenated.

Cause cholesterol oxidation

Polyunsaturated oils turn rancid easily in oxygen, heat and light, more so when they are highly refined. For this reason, soybean, corn and cottonseed oils are not ideal for cooking as monounsaturates and saturates are. Even when taken fresh, these oils will oxidize faster in the body where they mix with an abundance of oxygen. Cold-pressed flaxseed, almond and sesame oils make healthier polyunsaturates.

Polyunsaturates are bad for the heart. Dr. Enig found that the studies (1965) showing unsaturated oils as lowering cholesterol, ignored the bad side effect on the heart. Cholesterol had simply migrated out of the blood into surrounding tissues to fix cell walls made more leaky by the polyunsaturated oils. When cholesterol gets oxidized by rancid oils, it becomes artery-clogging.

Polyunsaturated oils raise cancer risk Researches (1978, 1984, 1991, 1993) by biochemist Dr. Raymond Peat reveal that (1) as unsaturation of dietary oil increases, cancer rates increases, mental ability diminishes, (2) general aging is increasingly associated with fat oxidation, and (3) refined vegetable oil intake exceeding 10% of total calories can lead to blood disease, cancer, liver damage, and vitamin deficiencies.

Refined polyunsaturated oils form the most trans fats in hydrogenation Partially hydrogenated soybean oil results in shortenings containing about 40% trans fats, higher by 5% over cottonseed oil, and 15% over corn oil.

SOURCES: Mary Enig,PhD, "The Oiling of America" / Raymond Peat, PhD, " Food Loaded with Real Health Benefits"/ Bruce Fife, ND, "Eat Fat, Look Thin"

Meal replacement, anyone?

By Charles E. Buban

ARE meal replacements—drinking a special shake or eating a diet bar—a more effective way to lose weight?

According to Amway senior scientist Lynne Connor, meal replacement products offer a better way to help people control their calorie intake without having to worry about counting them.

"If a busy schedule has left you with too little exercise and too much weight, you might want to try this new approach to reach and maintain optimal weight," says Connor.

Connor, who has nine years experience in designing, developing and testing weight management products in the United States, was recently in the country to explain Amway's Nutrilite Positrim weight management system. It is a package (composed of meal replacement drink mix and protein bar) formulated to make one lose unwanted kilograms or to maintain one's optimal weight.

Fewer calorie intake

"This system follows the fact that to lose weight we need to take in fewer calories than our body needs," Connor explains.

She says that when this happens, the person will draw on his fat reserves to provide him with the extra energy required to function properly.

"In the long term, this means that person will lose fat, and as a result, the kilograms drop off," she says.

Connor says an increasing number of Americans appreciate meal replacement products because they are convenient, take away the need to think about food, and don't have to count calories anymore.

The Positrim drink mix in the package provides 250 ml of whole milk, 15 g of protein, 39 g of carbohydrates, 14 g of fat, 3 g of fiber, 13 vitamins and 12 minerals—all the nutrients one needs in one meal, according to Connor.

Complementing this is the protein bar, which provides 22 g of high-quality protein and 16 g of glycerin and maltitol, which may be valuable for those on restricted or controlled carbohydrate diet.

Controlled portions

"This system is a great option for people who prefer to eat food that is already calorie- and portion-controlled and for those who like a simple approach to weight loss and don't want to have to think about planning or preparing individual meals," says Connor.

She believes the system can play a valuable role in weight loss since drinking a meal instead of eating one takes the person away from the kitchen or the restaurant, the so-called "food environment," that tempts one to overindulge in food.

Connor admits that replacing one's meal would be a challenge for some, so she suggests that the system be integrated slowly into one's daily diet.

"In combination with other healthy food products, this system is a great way to support one's weight-loss goals by curbing appetite and stimulating metabolism," she says.

She adds that people who have trouble changing their eating habits may start slowly with one meal replaced each day then gradually work up to two or even three meals if more weight loss is desired.

1 billion

According to the World Health Organization, obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally, with more than one billion adults overweight and at least 300 million of them clinically obese.

Connor says obesity predisposes people to higher risks of associated diseases like type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart attack, colon cancer, angina (heart burn), osteoarthritis, stroke and even cancers.

"I believe that with this system, Filipinos will now have a new—and hopefully, better and effective—way to address weight loss and weight management in the long term. Numerous tests in the United States have proven their safety and show that the risk of diseases associated with being overweight are reduced with such a system," Connor says.

Fixed-dose combination drug for hypertension

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

TONIGHT, a new fixed-drug combination (FDC) pill for hypertension, which has been shown by studies to help delay the onset of diabetes and kidney disease, will be launched.

There was a time when monotherapy was the order of the day. But modern science has shown that for many diseases, one drug may no longer be sufficient to control the problem. Combination therapy is now used in many medical indications including infections, stomach ulcers, diabetes, cholesterol problems and high blood pressure.

With combination therapy comes the issue of drug compliance since one will have to take two or more pills daily. This also means taking it indefinitely for chronic problems that require long-term or lifelong therapy such as hypertension.

This is the idea behind FDCs. Patients don't have to take additional pills, and hopefully, the price of the FDC is less than the price of buying the individual components separately.

Combination drug

Before the Bureau of Food and Drugs approves any FDC, it makes sure there is really a scientific rationale for the combination. The new FDC antihypertensive pill contains two known drugs: an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor and a nondihydropyridine calcium channel blocker.

The combination has been shown to reduce the incidence of microalbuminuria, a bad sign in hypertensive patients, when compared with standard treatment, according to a study published recently in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Microalbuminuria, or small amounts of protein in the urine, is an early indicator of kidney disease and has been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular problems. It used to be regarded as a benign finding when doing a routine analysis of the urine, but its presence is now regarded as an ominous indicator of bad things to come for the hypertensive and diabetic patients. Its presence prods the doctor to be more aggressive in treating the patient's high blood pressure and/or diabetes.

When there's already microalbuminuria, the doctor needs to aim for a lower than normal blood pressure for the patient.

1,200 patients

The Bergamo Nephrologic Diabetes Complication Trial (Benedict) examined the effects of various combinations of the ACE inhibitor, trandolapril and the nondihydropyridine calcium channel blocker, verapamil, during the onset of microalbuminuria in more than 1,200 patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension for about three-and-a-half years.

The study emphasizes the potential role of combination antihypertensive medicine in delaying the onset of microalbuminuria, which is an important treatment goal for individuals with hypertension and diabetes.

Neglecting this can have serious long-term consequences on the patient.

Progressive deterioration of kidney function may ultimately lead to kidney failure that may require the patient to have regular dialysis and subsequently kidney transplantation. This dreadful scenario is a good motivator for patients to take their antihypertensive and antidiabetic pills religiously.

The Benedict study also noted that the trandolapril/verapamil combination helped patients reduce blood pressure with fewer additional medications. Blood pressure reduction is also important to reduce the risk of kidney and cardiovascular diseases like heart attack and stroke.

"Doctors do not have to wait for the early signs of kidney disease before treating patients with the right combination of drugs," says Dr. Loewe Go, consultant at the St. Luke's Heart Institute, who will be one of the speakers in the FDC launch.

370M diabetics

By 2030, there will be about 370 million people worldwide with type 2 diabetes and approximately one-third of them will develop nephropathy and require dialysis therapy.

About 10,000 Filipinos suffer from end stage renal disease each year, according to data from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute. Of these, more than half are due to diabetes and hypertension.

I look forward to moderating the scientific panel discussion this evening at the New World Hotel with Dr. May Ann Lao. In the panel are noted hypertension specialists Ramon Abarquez, Loewe Go, Joel Abanilla, Roberto Yabut, Jane Galang and Dinna Cruz.

Women's well-being and feminine hygiene

By Annebelle D. Aherrera, MD
Contributor

WELL-BEING is a state that encompasses body, mind and spirit, one which women will go great lengths to achieve. A key aspect of female well-being is feminine hygiene. There are misconceptions, however, about proper feminine hygiene, which to a gynecologist is synonymous with appropriate care of the vulva.

Collectively, the vulva consists of the female external genitalia, namely the urethra, clitoris, labia minora, labia majora and the vagina. The latter is an opening and cavity that leads to the cervix and other female reproductive organs. The vagina has a delicate and dynamic ecosystem. While part of the external genitalia, it has a unique environment different from other areas of the vulva.

pH balance

The health of the vagina depends on its pH balance. The term "pH" refers to a numerical measure of acidity or alkalinity, ranging on a scale of values from 1 to 14, with 7 being neutral. A higher pH value denotes higher alkalinity while a lower pH value means increasing acidity. The pH of the vagina changes over a woman's lifetime—from childhood through menopause—and is dependent on hormonal changes.

Due to the hormone estrogen, the normal pH of the vagina during adolescence and adult, child-bearing years ranges from 3.8 to 4.2 in value. This acidic environment results from the growth of lactobacilli, the normally occurring "good" bacteria that keeps "bad" bacteria at bay. In essence, there is balance between good and bad bacteria in a normal vagina. At the same time, lactobacilli in the vagina produce lactic acid, which provides a natural barrier against infection and irritation.

The normal vaginal pH balance can be disturbed, at worst resulting in irritations and infections, by factors including hormonal changes, use of certain antibiotics, intrauterine and other contraceptive devices, menstruation, overused sanitary napkins or tampons, synthetic panty liners, a diet high in sucrose and lactose, presence of male semen, douching and the use of feminine washes with inappropriate pH values.

Important concern

Feminine washing is an important concern. All females experience at least one episode of itching, irritation or discharge in their lifetimes, a common reason for many women to visit their gynecologists.

Vaginal irritations and infections can have many causes, foremost of which are bacteria, protozoa, fungi, hormonal changes and true allergic reactions. Bubble baths, soaps, body washes, douches, laundry detergents or fabric softener residues with pH values outside the vagina's normal range can also cause irritations and infections.

Due to the structure of the female external genitalia, feminine wash finds its way into the vaginal cavity, no matter how carefully and gently it is used while lathering and rinsing. Feminine washes with pH levels not consistent with those in the normal vagina can disrupt its delicate pH balance, and lead to irritations, infections and discharges. The normal vaginal pH range of 3.8 to 4.2 is different from that of the skin, which is 5.0 to 5.5.

Thus, there are two elements of proper feminine hygiene worth keeping in mind: (1) the pH level of a feminine wash determines its usefulness in maintaining a healthy vaginal pH balance; and, (2) the presence of lactic acid in appropriate levels in a feminine wash helps defend against harmful bacteria. Understanding these elements is part of achieving well-being for women.

Cross-contamination in homes a major cause of food-borne diseases

CROSS-CONTAMINATION, or the transfer of bacteria from the original source to another person or object, continues to be the major cause of food-borne diseases.

This despite the resurgent interest among the country's microbiologists to conduct applied research to solve food safety and food handling problems.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that food-borne illnesses and food safety remain increasingly important public issues. Governments all over the world are intensifying efforts to improve food safety in response to rising consumer concerns. According to the WHO, contamination creates an enormous social and economic burden not only on national health systems, but also on the economic welfare of families.

Mistaken for flu

In the Philippines alone, millions of people suffer from food-borne diseases that are often mistaken for flu due to similarities of their symptoms such as fever, chills, headache and diarrhea. These symptoms usually occur from 30 minutes to two weeks after a person has contacted food-borne bacteria.

Among the most susceptible to food-borne diseases are children below 5 years old and people with weak immune systems. In some cases, such diseases can be life-threatening.

Health experts also believe that the kitchen is a potential source of bacteria, which cause food-borne diseases. Cross-contamination occurs when bacteria are passed on from the original source to another person or object.

Dishwashing implements, such as sponges, can be breeding grounds for germs which, though unseen, are easily transferred in one swipe.

Recommendation

The Philippine Society for Microbiology recommends using an antibacterial dishwashing cleaner that provides germ-killing protection on dishwashing implements. Killing germs on the sponge prevents the movement of harmful bacteria from one place to another in the kitchen.

Reducing the dangerous levels of bacteria in the home can protect the whole family from food-borne diseases, and this can be done by preventing the spread of harmful bacteria starting right in one's kitchen.

Yakult nutritional health drink for Filipinos

YAKULT, a fermented skim milk drink introduced the good bacteria or live Lactobacillus Casei Shirota Strain that can survive in the human intestinal tract which can help prevent disorders.

Microorganisms have to conquer various physiological barriers in order to remain alive in the human intestinal tract. The first barrier is gastric juice and the second is bile. These barriers are strongly bactericidal and most of the microorganisms, which invade the human intestinal tract, are killed.

The lactic acid in Yakult is resistant to gastric acid and bile, and is able to reach the intestines alive. Once in the intestines, it acts to exert various beneficial activities, which retain and promote intestinal health. More than 8 billion of these beneficial intestinal lactic acid bacteria, Lactobacillus Casei, are in every milliliter of Yakult.

Yakult, a pioneer in probiotics, is the result of a breakthrough study by Dr. Minoru Shirota more than 70 years ago and has lived up to its name of promoting the philosophy of preventive health among people. Yakult continues to be a favorite among Filipinos as a health drink that's safe for babies and pregnant women.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 1, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	357,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	48.5	47.5	48	862,900
China Banking Corp.	770	775	770	775	310
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.51	470,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	49	49.5	37,200
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	21,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29.5	28	28	1,447,700
Philippine National Bank	43	43	42	42	37,000
Security Bank Corp.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.75	15,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	2,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	262.5	262.5	262.5	262.5	150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	190,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1860	1860	1860	1860	90
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	73,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	2,271,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	805	800	800	21,560
Ipeople Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	37,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.048	0.045	0.048	1,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.9	17,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.8	3,151,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1615	1615	1580	1590	331,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.014	0.016	48,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	1,000
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	22	21.75	22	319,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	1,558,000
Petron Corp.	2.95	3	2.9	2.9	3,087,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.72	1.72	129,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	370,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	852,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,139,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	5,160,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	2,619,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	64,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30	89,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29	29	29	92,600
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.5	31,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	60	59	60	660,800
San Miguel Corp. B	93.5	94	93.5	94	31,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	315	315	300	300	484,910
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	83,000,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	500,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	4,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.9	420,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.98	7,300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	220,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.44	2.55	2.42	2.42	410,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.4	7	6.4	7	969,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	45.5	45	45	546,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.35	21,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	47,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.26	4,253,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	9,070,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,000,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	1,763,190
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	1,200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	600,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	6,125,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	605,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	16,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	210,000

PLDT 10% Pref Series AA

Ayala Land Inc.
Cityland Development Corp.
Cebu Holdings Inc.
C & P Homes Inc.
Cyber Bay Corp.
Empire East Land Inc.
Filinvest Land Inc.
Highlands Prime Inc.
Kuok Phil. Properties
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.
Robinsons Land Corp.
Phil Realty and Holdings
SM Prime Holdings Inc.

Abra Mining & Industrial
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B
Manila Mining Corp. A
Manila Mining Corp. B
Omico Corp.
Philex Mining Corp. A
Philex Mining Corp. B
Semirara Mining Corp.

Oriental Pet. & Min. B
The Philodrill Corp. A
The Philodrill Corp. B
Petroenergy Res. Corp.

Shares d

From page B1

Losers outnumbered ga
20, with 40 stocks 'e
changed.

Dealers said market pl
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weekend as they await fu
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Ms Arroyo is under sie
ponents who claim she
last year's election and
facing an impeachment c
Congress.

"Jitters remain. Invest
nervous given the brewi

SAN MIGUEL Corp. decla
Aug. 18 to stockholders
will be closed from July 1

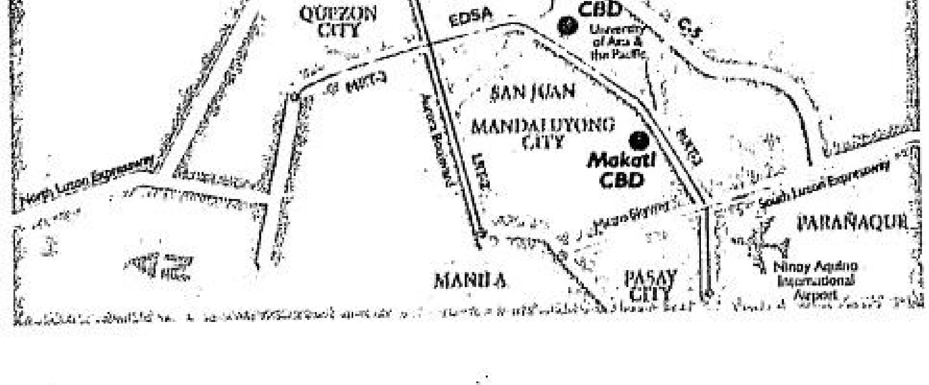
FIL-HISPANO Holdings
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Ma

VITARICH Corp. announc
for feed sales and market

IMPERIAL Resources Inc
14, 10 a.m., at the 2nd F
Harvard Road, Forbes Pa
will be entitled to vote.

PANCAKE House Inc. elect
Macaalay, Zenaida Mercad
& Co. as external auditor.

Don't just live.



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	PROPERTY			
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1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	50,000
0.88	0.88	0.87	0.88	230,000
0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	500,000
0.185	0.195	0.185	0.185	2,310,000
0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	4,080,000
1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	10,428,000
2.22	2.26	2.2	2.2	70,000
0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	23,400,000
0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	50,000
4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	10,000
0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	1,040,000
7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,678,000
	MINING			
0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	16,000,000
5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	273,000
0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	4,070,000
0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	3,000,000
0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	20,000,000
0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	22,000,000
0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	40,000
0.92	0.92	0.91	0.92	1,190,000
26	27	26	26.5	428,800
	OIL			
0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
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situation. There's apparently no resolution in sight," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"The worst case scenario for us going forward is a military coup, while the best scenario would be that people would forget about it (the Arroyo controversy) and move on," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

PLDT fell P30 to P1,590 while Ayala Corp. lost P15 to P300. Bank of the Philippine Islands fell 50 centavos to P48. Metropolitan Bank gave up a peso to P28. Ayala Land retreated 20 centavos to P7.60. *AFP*

DISCLOSURES

red a cash dividend of P0.35 per share payable on
f record as of July 15. Its stock and transfer books
to July 29.

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orp: has moved to the 9th Floor, Citibank Center,
ati City.

***

d the retirement of Wilfredo Angeles, vice president
g.

***

. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July
oor, West Room, Manila Golf & Country Club Inc.,
k, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of June 1

***

ed as directors Martin Lorenzo, Milagros Basa, Cecile
, Fernan Lukban and Jerome Tan. It reappointed SGV

ompiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

Tanduay shells out ₱670M to acquire stills

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TANDUAY Holdings Inc. is investing P670 million to acquire new distilleries and a packaging company.

The acquisitions are seen to enhance the value of the liquor firm and make it more attractive to prospective investors.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Tanduay said that it had paid P349.5 million to Asian Alcohol Corp. and P135 million to Absolute Chemicals Inc., to acquire 90-percent stake in each company.

Asian Alcohol is the second biggest distillery in Negros Occidental. Absolute Chemicals is a medium-sized distillery in Batangas. Both firms are expected to file their respective applications for increase in capital to make room for the Tanduay investment.

Asian will increase its capital to P500 million, while Absolute Chemicals will hike its capital to P200 million.

According to industry sources, Tanduay is studying the possibility of acquiring assets of the Cabuyao Packaging Corp., specifically its bottle washing plant.

Tanduay has already deposited P185 million in Cabuyao to firm up its investment.

Tanduay, part of the Lucio Tan Group, earlier said it was setting aside P3 billion to buy six liquor-related companies.

Once the acquisition is completed in the second half of this year and the assets of its target companies folded in, Tanduay's assets will have expanded to nearly P10 billion from the present P7.3 billion.

In a separate disclosure yesterday, Tanduay said its board approved the acquisition of majority stakes in the six firms: Asian Alcohol Corp.; Absolute Chemicals Inc.; DyZum Distillery Inc.; Cabuyao Packaging Corp.; Flor de Caña Shipping Inc. and Negros General Services.

At present Tanduay has no distillery. It buys alcohol from some of the firms through its 100-percent subsidiary Tanduay Distillers Inc.

Last year, Tanduay Holdings' net income increased by 88 percent to P660 million.

You're invited to be part of history.

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Inquirer turns 20
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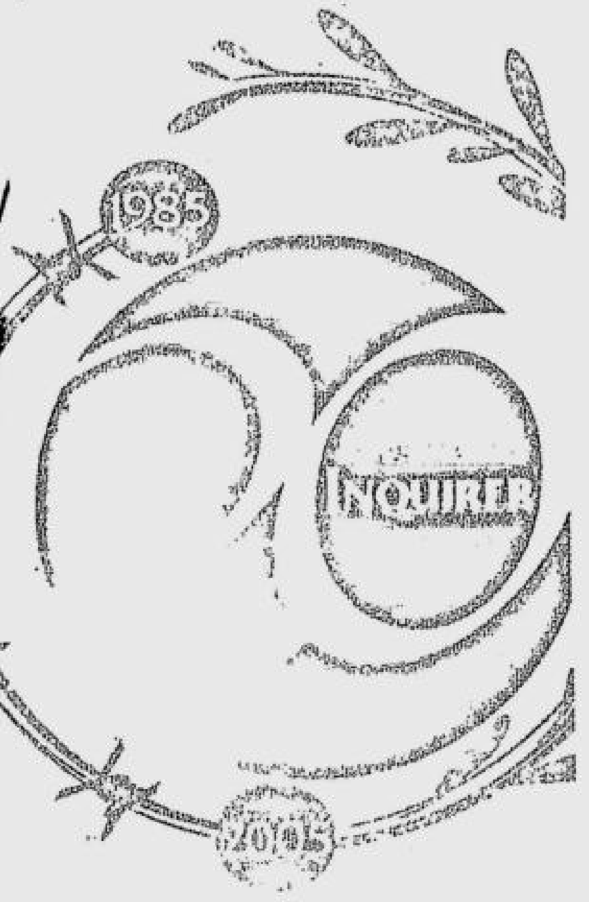
100 episodes, and counting
PDI launches corporate website



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Glorietta Mall, Makati City

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VTR screen test . Face painting & kiddie activities
Mini-golf & basketball games . Street magic & fortune telling

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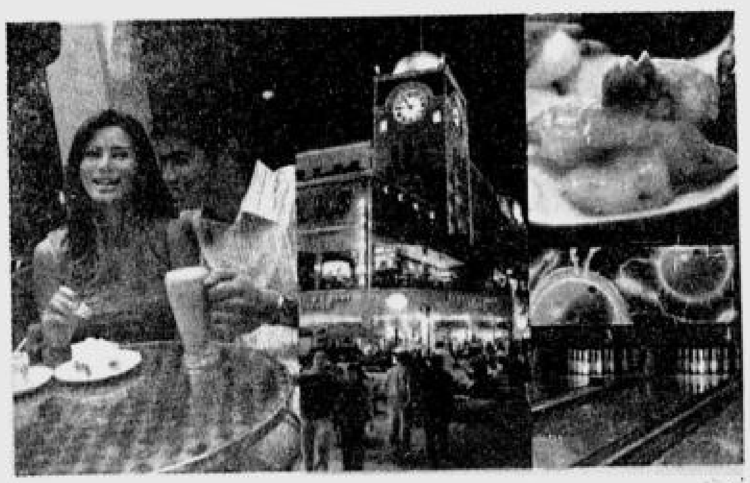

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- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
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- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

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- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

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Qualifications:
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 3 years auditing experience
- At least 1 year supervisory / management experience
- Knowledge of Gen. Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
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- Analytical Skills, Team Player
- Can promote & implement appropriate process improvements, leadership skills

Responsibilities:
- Performs audit procedure, organizes working papers and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations
- Responsible for assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans/ programs

RESEARCH SECTION HEAD

Qualifications:
- College graduate
- 2 years experience in related or similar job
- 2 years management experience
- Computer skills (Windows, Word, Netscape, Explorer, Excel, Corel Draw, Powerpoint)
- Interpersonal Management / Team Building skills, analytical skills, follow through skills
- Familiar with publishing industry

Responsibilities:
- Supervises the day to day operations of the Research Section by overseeing the gathering of statistics, reports, backgrounds and other reference materials requested by the Editorial and the writing of special reports and packaged information for publication

CREDIT CLERK

Qualifications:
- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- Preferably with office experience

Responsibilities:
- Assists the Credit Assistants in facilitating credit approval of all advertisements that includes ads through agencies. direct clients and others

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – ADVERTISING

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Marketing or any Business course
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Interpersonal skills, Report Writing skills, Presentation skills, Filing skills, Communication skills

Responsibility:
- Responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with clients and ad agencies with the end view of soliciting ad placement to meet overall sales quota.

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Responsibilities:
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Qualifications:
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- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
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- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

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Qualifications:
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- 1 year experience in this job or other similar jobs
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- Knowledge basic computer operation Accounting skills, Report Writing skills, Ability to prepare check, Interpersonal skills, Filing skills

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that DIOSDADA S. SANCHEZ has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from JOSIE to DIOSDADA in the Certificate of Live Birth of JOSIE BALABA SUICO who was born on March 24, 1961 at Zamboanga City and whose parents are DEMETRIO AYUD SUICO and EVANGELINE DAGAHOYA BALABA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than July 4, 2005

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – June 25 & July 2, 2005)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's
Job Market
brings forth a special forum entitled

Maximizing Results in Your Recruitment Ads

- Mechanics and elements in placing a job ad
- Process of Job Placement
- Hiring the Most Qualified Applicants

When: July 5, 2005
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Where: PDI Multi-Purpose Hall
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Gone to eternal rest
but abides with us everyday...

LOURDES ADRIANO FLORCRUZ y LOPEZ

of Malolos, Bulacan

BSHE '37 UP

H.E. Department Head, **Bulacan High School, 1941-53;**
Provincial Home Economist **of Bulacan, 1953-74;**
H.E. Extension Specialist, **BAgrExt, DANR, 1974-77;**
President, **Inner Wheel of the Rotary Club of Malolos, 1963-65.**

Died on June 30, 2005; Interment at Malolos Municipal Cemetery, Caniogan, following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Barasoain Church on July 6, 2005.

Affectionately remembered by husband **Cenon**; children **Nieva** & Erning Bejar Cruz (†) ; **Irma** & Nonoy Andes Medel; **Rene** and Lynn Velasco del Mundo; **Nilo** & Linda Sy de Guzman, **Jaime** & Ana Zaldivar Segovia; **Leni** & Roy Corpuz Florentino; **Rogelio** (†); grandchildren Derrick/Beth LeBras; Rachel Anne/Stephen Marcell; Sari/Greg Lingle (Katie); Bobby/Chieko Fukushima (Kiri); Mimi/Elijah Wasson (Ella); Weng, Victor; Kristine, Jassie, Archie; Nilo Vin II/Cherry Ramirez (Nicky & Elmo); Joseph Jaime, Michelle; Karen, Philip, Che-che; other relatives, friends and co-workers at Bulacan High School, Tabang, Guiguinto Nursery, H.E. Extension Division, BAgrExt, DANR.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBERS OF

The Philippine Institute of Interior Designers

deeply condole with the family of

EDGAR P. RAMIREZ, FPIID

His remains lie in state at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Meycauyan, Bulacan.

Interment at the Zamora Memorial, Meycauyan, Bulacan on Saturday, July 2, 2005 after the 3:00pm Mass at Saint Francis of Assisi.

"Come to Me,
all you who are weary
and burdened,
and I will give
you rest."
Matthew 11:28

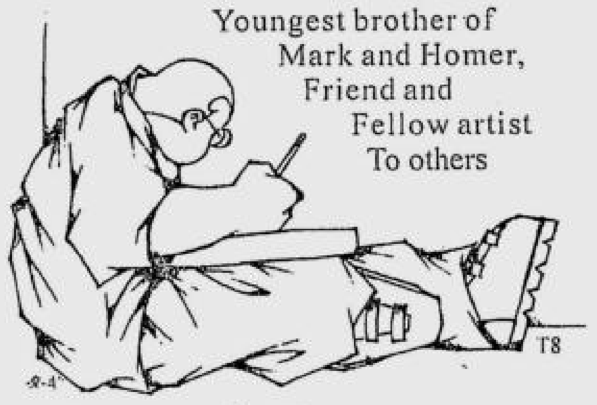
July 2, 2005

In Loving Memory
On the Second Death Anniversary of

Miguel Antonio P. Taguiwalo

(October 18, 1984 - July 2, 2003)

Beloved son of Mario and Beaulah,
Youngest brother of
Mark and Homer,
Friend and
Fellow artist
To others



We called him Mike.
His brother called him Bones.
His friends called him Tagui.
He signed his artworks T8.
And also Tagui8.

"For what is it to die, But to stand in the sun and melt into the wind? And when the Earth has claimed our limbs, then we shall truly dance." - Kahlil Gibran

---

"We know that God
raised the Lord Jesus
from death. He will
raise us to life
with Jesus. He will
present us, along
with you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

MESSAGE OF THANKS

From the Family of the late

AMELIA AGONCILLO FRIAL SISON

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude
to all those who were with us in our moment of grief;
for joining us in our nightly vigil and for praying with us;
for the Mass cards, messages of sympathy and condolence,
the beautiful flowers and other expressions of compassion
and support; for all that you have done to console us
in our time of sorrow; and most especially, to the members
of the Clergy for celebrating Holy Masses during
the wake and the funeral rites.

A great husband, father and grandfather,
A man that was loved by all
Our dearly beloved

JOHN JAMES RODRIGUEZ

of 201 Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City
born on November 23, 1932 in Brooklyn, New York
has peacefully joined our Lord on June 28, 2005.

His bereaved wife **ADELIA G. RODRIGUEZ**; daughter **JOYCE R. ESTANISLAO** and son-in-law **OSCAR ESTANISLAO**; grand children **MICHAEL JOHN ESTANISLAO, MICHELLE AURORA ESTANISLAO & MARICAR JOYCE ESTANISLAO**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 3, 2005 at 2 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City instead of Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig. Mass will be at 10 a.m. Please be informed that there will be a 7 p.m. Mass today, July 2, 2005 at Arlington.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA
•LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
•MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8836/30; Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
•MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
•MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
•MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447
•MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels. 942-6044, 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS
& CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St. San Roque, Marikina City, Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
•PARAÑAQUE
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels. 820-1592, 825-9947; 826-8635
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
•PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
•PASIG
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
•QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ELYSIUM GARDENS
277 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City;
Tels. 723-76-51; 723-6494; 723-6335
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
284 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0866
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
286 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
•TAGUIG-PATEROS
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL
•ALBAY
LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Bugtong Road, Legaspi City. Tels. (052) 820-0188, 0917-2074152
•BACOLOD
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
•BAGUIO
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City. Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
•BATAAN
SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan
Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911766
•BULACAN
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011, Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266, (0917) 895-0603
•CAVITE
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1978
•CEBU
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch, A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
•DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
•ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
•LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Dila Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142; Fax (049) 531-4989
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668, 800-2914
Cel. No. (0917) 5016963
•PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
•RIZAL
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK
CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cargma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782 697-0026, 650-7426,
Fax 697-2764
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo Rizal.
Tels. 649-5949, 942-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal,
Tels. 645-1855
•ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 5 MVA (69 KV/13.2 KV) SUBSTATION INCLUDING 3 SECONDARY CIRCUITS, METERING/MONITORING STATION AND PERIMETER FENCE

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will require the construction of 5 MVA Power Transformer Substation, having a primary input voltage of 69 KV and a secondary voltage of 13.2 KV Wye, 3 – Phase 4 Wire Wye System, to include the installation of High Voltage Circuit Breakers and Secondary Metal Clad Switch Gears Protection and Metering/Monitoring Station. Likewise, construction of power take-off for the Secondary 13.2 KV Structure per feeder and the primary 69 KV structure.

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **TWENTY SEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY PESOS & 20/100 ONLY** (P27,195,590.20) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction of One (1) Lot 5 MVA (69 KV/ 13.2 KV) Substation Including 3 Secondary Circuits, Metering/Monitoring Station and Perimeter Fence"**, Bids received in excess or the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The ZCSEZA now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **"Construction of One (1) Lot 5 MVA (69 KV/13.2 KV) Substation Including 3 Secondary Circuits, Metering/Monitoring Station and Perimeter Fence"**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility forms. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **July 20, 2005**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required within **120 Calendar Days.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI Form available at the address given below), from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, on or before **July 12. 2005**. They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility documents, in order for these to be received by the BAC Secretariat in the same address, on or before **July 20, 2005**.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ZCSEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on **August 23, to 30, 2005.**
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before August 23 to 30, 2005.
7. The ZCSEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 3, 2005 at 10:00 AM at the Conference Hall, Ground Floor Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.**
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below at or before **October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check and in an amount of **Two Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Pesos & 90/100 (P271,955.90)**. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Conference Hall, Ground Floor Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**
9. The ZCSEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209

(PDI – June 25 & July 2, 2005)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROJECT
NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regional Office 13 (Caraga)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office 13 (Caraga) - Local Government Unit Management Training Project, through its Bids and Awards Commitee (BAC), invites consulting firms to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted to bid for the hereunder services:

Title : **Training Consulting Services**

Brief Description : The Training Consulting Firm (TCF) shall (a) conduct TNA i.e.; assess training needs of local government units and local training/service institutions in the Caraga region; (b) conduct conference/meetings with local institutions providing training services to LGUs and assist in the development and implementation of a plan to organize a pool of local service providers; (c) design and pre-test project and program development and management training courses/modules, package and pre-test training manuals, templates and guidebooks; (d) conduct project and program development and management training for selected LGUs and institutions in the Caraga region; as well as (e) facilitate the drafting, finalization and packaging of LGU project studies for presentations to local development councils and other investors.

Approved Budget for the Contract : **PhP1,658,800**

Source of Funding : New Zealand Agency for International Development Grant for LGUMTP

Contract Duration : 5.5 months

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel, current workload and financial standing. Only five eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality based Evaluation (QBE).

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Deadline
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	18 July 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	4 July - 19 July 2005
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	26 July 2005
4. Results of Eligibility Check	28 July 2005
5. Results of Short Listing	29 July 2005
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 July - 3 Aug 2005
7. Pre-bid Conference	5 Aug 2005

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at **LGUMTP-NEDA Caraga Office, Nimfa Tiu Building, J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City Tel. Nos. (085)3420181/3425774, Fax Nos. (85)3602055/8150308 Email: nzaidlgumtp_neda@yahoo.com** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **PhP1,000.00** to the **NEDA Caraga** cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office. For further enquiries contact, Ms. Lurraine Baybay Villacorta, LGUMTP Project Director.

Bid documents will be available only to the shortlisted bidders upon payment of PhP1,000.00 to the NEDA Caraga cashier.

LGUMTP-NEDA Caraga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **CARMENCITA S. COCHINGCO**
Regional Director

(PDI - July 2 & 9, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax : 631-96-40
Direct Line : 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http//www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

(Re-Bid)

Repair/Renovation of Library Hub Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

The Department of Education (DepED), through the Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED) intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP2,439,800.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Repair/ Renovation of Library Hub, at Araneta corner Hernaez St., Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The DepED now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the project. Bidders should possess a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license applicable to the above type and cost of contract, have completed a similar contract with value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Application for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. Bidding Documents shall be issued to prospective bidders who pass the eligibility check only. Completion of work required is sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.

Interested contractors shall submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) together with their application for eligibility to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), at the **DepED Division Office of Bacolod City, Rosario San Juan Street, Bacolod City, or BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Rm. 508, 5th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City** not later than **July 1, 2005, 5:00 p.m.** Eligibility requirements shall be issued by DepED upon receipt of the LOI and application for eligibility.

Prospective Bidders shall submit their eligibility documents to the above address not later than July 6, 2005, 5:00 p.m. The DepED shall notify prospective bidders of the result of the eligibility check.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders starting **July 11 to 18, 2005** during office hours upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the address mentioned above, and payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP2,500.00. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. Nos. 034-4347803 or Fax No. 034-4338842. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org.

The DepED will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible Bidders on **July 20, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at DepED Division Office of Bacolod City, Rosario San Juan Street, Bacolod City.

Submission and opening of bids shall be on **August 1, 2005, 2:00 p.m.**, at the address specified in paragraph no. 5.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least 15% interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check shall be opened.

The DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 25, & July 2, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce to all interested Farmer's Organizations (FO's), Retailers and other interested NFA licensed wholesalers/millers that NFA will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction of 100,000 MT or 2.0-Million bags 15% brokens Imported Rice 2005 Arrivals.

PARTICULARS	VOLUME (IN MT)	INDICATIVE PRICE	
Farmer's Organizations	20,000	Ex-vessel	P 970.00/bg
Retailers	20,000	Ex-warehouse	P 1,010.00/bg
Open to all interested buyers	60,000		

The pre-auction conference and auction proper shall be held at 10:00 AM at FDC Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila on the following dates:

Pre-Auction	Auction Proper
July 11, 2005	July 14, 2005

All interested bidders/buyers are required to submit the following documents:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/or milling)
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting July 11, 2005 at DMO OCD, 5th floor National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C. from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For any inquiries, please contact Ms. Esple Tecson at tel. nos. 712-15-72 and 712-17-08.

Bid documents will be available starting July 11, 2005 to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 for FO's/retailers and 5,000.00 for all interested buyers.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **CONRADO DL IBANEZ**
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition

(PDI – July 2 & 4, 2005)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gene Pool
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija,
Philippines 3120
FAX: 63 (044) 456-0730
Tel.: 63 (044) 456-0731 to 34
E-mail: pcc-oed@mozcom.com
URL: www.pcc.da.gov.ph
Manila Liaison Office
3F, DCIBC Bldg., NIA Cmpd., EDSA,
Quezon City, Philippines 0830
Tel/FAX: 63 (2) 921-3863
63 (2) 926-7707
E-mail: [illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The Philippine Carabao Center, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Package #	Particulars	Approved Budget
I.	Semen Processing and Artificial Insemination Supplies	P115,758.75
II.	Veterinary Drugs and Supplies	645,504.50
III.	Laboratory/Chemical Supplies	905,001.80
IV.	Tires	420,400.00
	Total	**P2,086,665.05**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 4-8, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	July 18, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	July 26, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
4. Bid Evaluation	July 26, 2005
5. Post-qualification	July 27 - August 2, 2005
6. Notice of Award	30 days after Bid Evaluation

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one hundred fifty pesos (P150) to the Philippine Carabao Center Cashier.

The Philippine Carabao Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **EULOGIO M. MONTEALTO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 1 & 2, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax : 631-96-40
Direct Line : 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http//www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply of Services for Security at DepED Central Office, EDPITAF, and IMCS for CY 2005-2006

1. The General Service Division (GSD) of the Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TWELVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 ONLY (Php12,801,360.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply of Services for Security** hereinafter called the "GOODS." Bids received in excess of the ABC will be rejected at bid opening.
2. The **DepED** now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of "GOODS" to the **Department of Education, Educational Project Implementation Task Force (EDPITAF), Instructional Material Council Secretariat (IMCS)**, all located at DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on **June 23, 2005 until July 4, 2005** from the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Pesos Five Thousand and 00/100 only (Php5,000.00) Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel Nos. 636-6543 or Fax No. 636-6542.
5. The **DepED BAC** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **July 5, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.**
6. Bids must be received on or before **July 19, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City**. Late Bids shall be rejected.
7. The **DepED BAC** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 25, & July 2, 2005)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for

Academic Year 2006

FELLOWSHIPS IN:

I. **CV Anesthesiology Division**
  - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

II. **Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department**
  - 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
  - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
  - 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCIES IN: (for Medical Board Passers)

IV. **CV Radiological Sciences Division**
V. **Nuclear Medicine Section**
VI. **Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division**
VII. **1 year Fellowship Program (CV Radiological Sciences / Nuclear Medicine / Biological & Clinical Lab.)**
  - Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2005
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on January 1, 2006

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" colored picture
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with tel. nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items to be delivered to different points in the Philippines:

FARM MACHINERIES, IMPLEMENTS AND VEHICLES (BRAND NEW AND RECONDITIONED) for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects

Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 6,073,835.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	July 4-22, 2005 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	July 27, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:
The Bidding Secretariat – Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI – July 2 & 9, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax : 631-96-40
Direct Line : 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Albendazole Tablets, and Fortified Instant Noodles

1. The Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) of the Department of Education (DepED), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages:

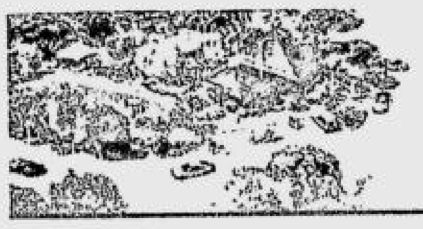
PACKAGE No.	GOODS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT PER PACKAGE
1	Albendazole Tablets	Php 5,900,000.00
2	Fortified Instant Noodles	4,800,000.00
	TOTAL	Php 10,700,000.00

   Bids received in excess of the approved budget per package shall be rejected. The total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **PHILIPPINE PESOS TEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP10,700,000.00)**.
2. The DepED, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the Goods to DepED Warehouse (near Motorpool), DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on June 27, 2005 until July 4, 2005 from the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Pesos Three Thousand & 00/100 Only (Php 3,000.00) Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. No. 636-6543 or Fax No. 536-6542.
5. The DepED BAC shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 6, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.
6. Bids must be received on or before July 18, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Late Bids shall be rejected
7. The DepED BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI - June 25 & July 2, 2005)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com



PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Merging condo lifestyle with country living

By Charles E. Buban

ASK people what they love most about living in Tagaytay area, and you'll find as many answers as the pine trees dotting this famous destination 56 kilometers south of Metro Manila.

For some, it's the country living atmosphere, with its gentle rolling slopes, year-round crisp and cool mountain air. For others, it's the lake with its famous volcano, and beautiful vistas that offer a refreshing escape from the workaday world.

"What everyone does agree about is the love of the so-called Tagaytay lifestyle, a reason a lot of people nowadays are looking for ways to be part of this idyllic place," says Erna Zalamea-Aragon, VP for marketing and operations of Don Tim Development Corp., a leading property developer in Tagaytay and Silang (Cavite) area.

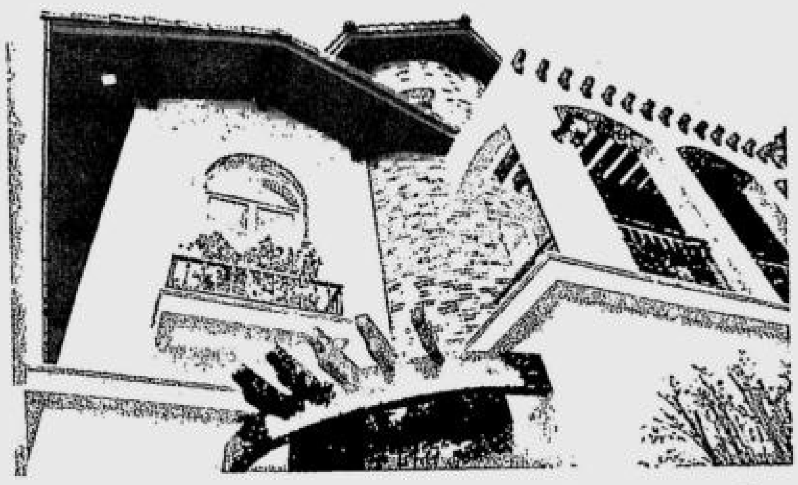
Building a new project

Aragon relates this is the reason Alta Monte, Don Tim's latest project in Tagaytay, is now almost sold out and into building a new project

MERGING/ B2-2

THE LEISURE Suite's design maximizes the use of available light, which not only helps conserve energy but also allows Tagaytay's cool mountain air to enter.

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino: A Romantic Interlude



The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

Another mid-rise condo to rise in QC

By Charles E. Buban

FOLLOWING the success of Sunny Villas project, Phinma Property Holdings Corp. announces the groundbreaking of another medium-rise condominium project located also in Quezon City.

"Spazio Bernardo is a 1.6-hectare property that will feature 11, five-story Italian-inspired villas," reveals PPHC president Willy Uy.

Uy explains that "Spazio" is an Italian word for place or space and decided to use the name because the property is expected to offer its residents a charming and quiet enclave amid the city's bustling lifestyle.

Located on Mindanao Avenue, Spazio Bernardo will offer 957 30-square-meter units, which can be acquired for as low as P5,500 per month and at low down payment schemes.

Functional, flexible

"Buyers can purchase adjoining units to expand their floor space to 60 or 90 sq m. In the PPHC tradition of offering good value for money, Spazio Bernardo units are designed to be functional as well as flexible," says Uy.

Furthermore, he adds that units at Spazio Bernardo are priced 30 percent less than the prevailing condo units of the same build quality.

"We are able to do this because PPHC uses a patented building technology that allows us to construct faster, helping us to deliver units within 60 to 90 days after purchase," he says.

Encouraged

Uy relates that the success of Sunny Villas has encouraged PPHC to concentrate more on building affordable medium-rise building projects.

"We believe every Filipino family deserves a decent home. With our developments, our home buyers can enjoy both the pleasures of city living within the confines of a country-style home at very affordable prices," says Uy.

He adds that future residents of Spazio Bernardo will be able to enjoy the advantages of condominium living, especially the added benefits of amenities, enhanced security and ease of maintenance.

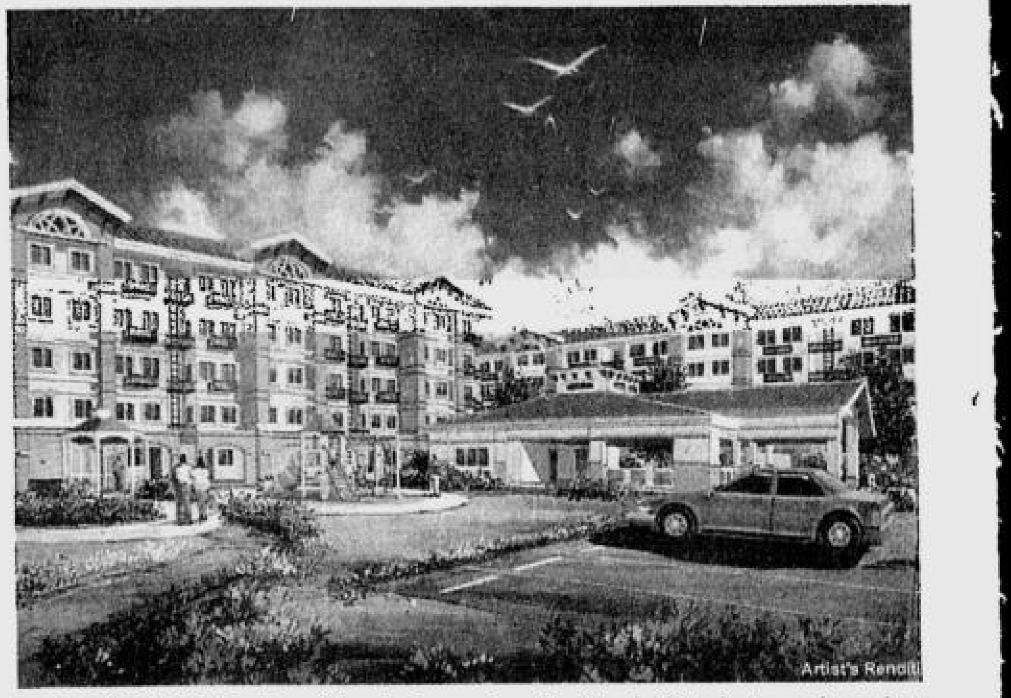
"Unlike the usual bare condo units in most medium-rise buildings, the units at Spazio Bernardo will be turned over painted wall to wall, has stainless kitchen sinks, tiles and laundry cubicle," reveals PPHC assistant vice president for marketing Grant Orbeta.

Need not be expensive

Uy believes owning quality condominium units need not be expensive.

"Apart from the construction technology we are employing, we also partnered with the Quezon City government, a reason most of our projects are located within the city. Sunny Villas and Spazio Bernardo is an example of how private and government sectors can join hands in solving the country's housing backlog," reveals Uy.

He adds that together with reasonable pricing scheme, faster construction time, and good build quality, "there's no reason why even families with tight budgets would not be encouraged to invest into something like condominium units."



ITALIAN-INSPIRED villas of Spazio Bernardo reflect the laid-back atmosphere that PPHC would like their latest project to have.

BIRD'S natural sanctuary

Sta. Elena villages: estates amid great natural outdoors

THE NATURAL environment of Sta. Elena boasts of rich and diverse flora and fauna. In its midst, you'll find rare species of Philippine hardwoods. Living among the woodlands, man-made forests and brush grasslands are indigenous wildlife and 107 species of native and migratory birds. Among these are rare varieties like the Philippine purple heron, Asiatic gray heron, tailor birds, Brahminy kites and crows.

Sta. Elena is also near the Tagaytay acquifer, endowing much of the area with the purest groundwater that you can drink out of the tap. To conserve and maintain this flowing wealth, Sta. Elena's landscape features such as perimeter woodlands, grasslands, fairways and man-made lakes with aquatic vegetation, have all been geared to aid filtration and irrigation.

There's more in the offing for the jaded city denizen who luckily finds himself amid the Sta. Elena estate in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. More than the beautifully landscaped surroundings and the exquisitely designed homes that will become your close neighbors, there is also the great natural outdoors for its setting.

Certification

And not just mere setting, too. The Sta. Elena communities belong to an elite group of properties recognized as a certified Audubon cooperative sanctuary. The prestigious Audubon distinction is icing on the cake for Sta. Elena's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship of the whole estate.

The certification affirms Sta. Elena's success in maintaining the highest standards in the categories of environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and conservation, water conservation, water quality management, and chemical use reduction and safety.

Harmonious balance

The design and planning of the residential villages of Banahaw and Sierra Madre, together with the award-winning Sta. Elena Golf Course, seek a harmonious balance with the delicate natural surroundings. In fact, everything here seems to have been handcrafted to bring the natural world into the modern home style.

There's a great display of natural balance and unity that urban-weary individuals will find akin to a breath of sweet, fresh air in the Sta. Elena communities. It represents a model of how life should be experienced and lived.

For inquiries on site visit, please call Sta. Elena Properties at 887-2390 or 0920-9118105 or e-mail sales@staelena.com.ph. You may also visit www.staelena.com.ph.

The green wish list

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

IS your house green? Many people associate green color with harmony, love and abundance. For others it's the color of money. And for many, it means the color of nature, which helps us connect with Mother Earth. Green has a calming effect and helps us to live in a noisy and busy world. This topic, however, is not about paint colors.

The term "green" here refers to a house with environment-friendly features. It means a house with fewer materials and resources to build, occupy and maintain. It also means a house that is healthy and comfortable to live in.

Many people are not aware of what makes a house green. They think that it takes a lot of money and effort. Depending on one's budget, there are low-tech and high-tech strategies that can be used to make a house green. In many cases, however, adopting green features in a house can be done with just a little common sense and a small dose of practicality.

Perhaps the best way to guide people in making their house green is by going through a wish list. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list but it will give the homeowner an idea of what makes a house green. As you go through the wish list you can evaluate your house. Do you think your house is green? Why not go through this list and find out. Ready?

___ 1. Are there plants and vegetation, especially large trees around your house to help reduce the heat island effect? This phenomenon accounts for heat buildup in urban areas where heat is stored in concrete surfaces during the day and released at night.

___ 2. Do you use native plantings, which require minimal irrigation instead of exotic plants that use up more water and chemicals?

___ 3. Are there open spaces around the house like setbacks and courtyards to allow the free flow of air?

___ 4. Are paved areas around the house porous, meaning rainwater can seep through the ground to charge underground aquifers? Porous pavements can also help cool the place.

___ 5. Are your exterior walls light-colored?

___ 6. Is your roof light-colored? Light-colored materials repel heat while dark-colored ones absorb heat.

___ 7. Are all your windows operable, which means, they can be opened to allow entry of fresh air?

___ 8. Do you have windows at opposite ends of the house with minimal obstructions in between to allow cross-ventilation?

___ 9. It is important to ventilate your house every day for a minimum of two hours. Do you do this?

___ 10. Do you have roof overhangs or sunshades over the windows or exterior doors for protection against sun and rain?

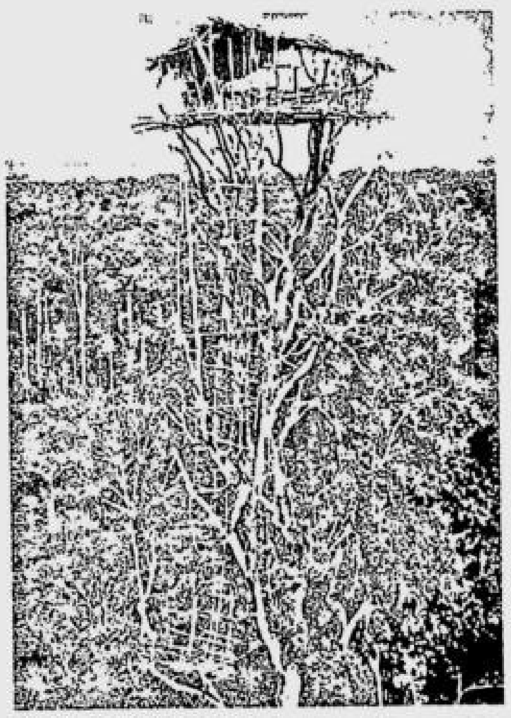
___ 11. Do you have thermal insulation between the ceiling and the roof for protection against heat buildup?

___ 12. Do you have ventilation slats at the roof eaves and gable to allow hot air to escape? Hot air moves upward through natural convection.

___ 13. Are your bathroom walls untiled in many areas except in wet areas such as showers and lavatories to allow the walls to breathe?

___ 14. Is your kitchen provided with large windows to expel smoke and heat from cooking appliances?

___ 15. Are most of your windows facing North and South to avoid direct solar exposure?



THE IDEAL green house means a house with fewer materials and resources to build, occupy and maintain. It also means a house that is healthy and comfortable to live in.
ARCHITECTURAL RECORD MAGAZINE

___ 16. Are you using new plumbing fixtures with new water-efficient models to save water?

___ 17. Do you water plants using recycled water instead of expensive treated water?

___ 18. Do you use graywater for irrigation or flushing toilets? (Graywater is used water from the shower, kitchen sinks and lavatories.)

___ 19. Do you collect rainwater for irrigation or for washing?

___ 20. Do you have an area for composting biodegradable organic waste?

___ 21. During the day, can your house depend on natural light to illuminate the interiors, thus saving energy, or do you depend on artificial lighting?

___ 22. Do you use energy efficient lamps for the whole house?

___ 23. Do you use electric fans more often to cool your house rather than be dependent on air conditioners?

___ 24. Is your house located in an area free from any high tension power lines?

___ 25. Is your sleeping area, especially the headboard, away from electrical gadgets like the TV, electronic clocks, sound system, etc. which can disturb the restoring quality of your sleep?

___ 26. Do you have any materials or parts of the house that have been used previously in another project like doors, windows, grilles, etc.? Recycling and reusing of materials is a very green initiative because it cuts down waste.

___ 27. Are the construction materials used in your house locally or regionally available and were not be transported over a long distance to your site?

___ 28. Are these construction materials durable and easy to maintain or do they require expensive upkeep, maintenance and replacement, thereby adding waste to existing landfills?

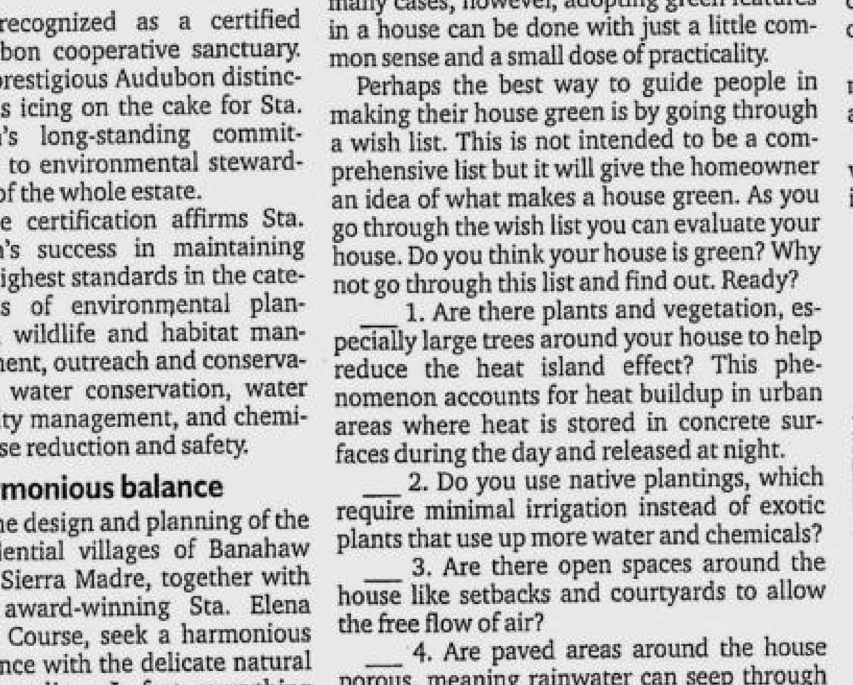
___ 29. Do you avoid toxic elements in your house by refusing to use air fresheners and synthetic polishes?

___ 30. Do you avoid the use of insecticides in your house? Experts claim that people who use insecticides in their homes are twice as likely to develop diseases.

Is it possible to get a perfect score? Definitely, but it will probably take a lot of time and effort, since many of us have already developed a lifestyle based on the wasteful use of materials and resources. There are no passing or failing marks in this exercise, just reminders about what we can do to help the environment.

(The author is the newly elected chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.)

A fully integrated masterplanned community



MAIN Clubhouse

AYALA Westgrove Heights is a fully integrated and masterplanned community touted as "The Next Big Thing after Ayala Alabang." Much like its well-received predecessor, Ayala Westgrove Heights is an upscale neighborhood that follows a grand vision of a sustainable and progressive community.

It is a unique residential environment where many conveniences and well-executed ideas meet. To achieve this vision, Ayala Land provided a nearby venue for business establishments—Laguna Technopark Inc. wherein companies such as Honda Cars, National Panasonic and Hitachi Corp. are located among over 100 others. There are also shopping destinations such as the Westgrove Retail Center and Rustan's, as well as religious and educational institutions for the convenience of homeowners.

New educational hub

Ayala Land's actions have been so successful that the area has in fact become a new educational hub which hosts prestigious institutions such as St. Scholastica's College-Westgrove (which land and building were donated by Ayala Land to the sisters of St. Scholastica), DLSU-Canlubang, Don Bosco University and Brent School.

Set within a former mango orchard, Ayala Westgrove Heights has been developed with quality of life in mind. This is truly an ideal subdivision for families to build their homes and a key opportunity for investors, as proven with over 1,500 lots sold since its launch.

Amenities

One of the most enticing amenities of Ayala Westgrove Heights includes the Main Clubhouse. It is a center for active fun, with two outdoor basketball courts plus an indoor court, four tennis courts, swimming pools and a jacuzzi, kiddie play area, gym, game rooms, table tennis area and a main social hall with four smaller activity rooms.

The Kidsgrove Clubhouse, meanwhile, is for more "kid-centric" activities, with a junior-sized basketball court, interactive wet and dry play areas for kids, kiddie pool and an indoor toddler room.

As part of the plan, there will be future amenities that are currently undergoing construction and are near completion. The Westgrove Sports Center will be the third clubhouse and will be a complex filled with sports facilities: indoor tennis courts, badminton courts, kiddie play area, game rooms, social hall and activity areas, indoor basketball courts, putting greens and a wellness center. This complex will be a series of small interconnected buildings that allow maximization of open space.

Establishments

Other much-awaited establishments are the Westgrove Retail Center (which will eventually have a BPI branch, Mercury Drugstore and a number of cafés and restaurants) and the Westgrove Church, which is set to break ground within the year.

All features of Ayala Westgrove Heights are tied into the master-plan which provides for more than half of the total land area devoted to open space. The prime subdivision has taken advantage of this open space and has created environment-friendly attractions such as the Central Park (a six-hectare park with three lagoons, fishing decks, gazebos, pavilions, a competition-sized football field, tennis courts, bike and jogging trails), the mango orchard, and the Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, which hosts over 90 species of birds.

Merging condo . . .

From page B2-1

within this 12.7-hectare executive community.

Alta Monte is an exclusive executive village located on Magallanes Drive, a few minutes drive from Tagaytay's commercial, tourist and entertainment destinations.

While Don Tim has previously offered single-detached units at Alta Monte—with lot areas ranging from 150 to 610 square meters—Aragon says they are now unveiling condominium units as an additional component of the development.

"Located at the southwestern portion of the development, the Alta Monte Leisure Suites will be offering more choices of elegant homes but at a much reasonable price package and similarly easy payment terms," reveals Aragon.

Starting at P1.9M

Units at Alta Monte Leisure Suites will start from P1.950 million up to P2.850 million (compared to the single-detached units' price that ranges between P3.850 million and P5.950 million).

Each three-level cluster of Alta Monte Leisure Suites will only have six units (two for each level) to ensure more privacy and exclusivity.

The more expensive ground floor units offer two bedrooms, a lanai and a garden while the second and third floor suites have one bedroom with the latter having an attic.

All units will be given parking slots for vehicles.

"Most of our leisure suites buyers are middle-income earners, *balikbayans* and even foreigners who want a weekend home in a place like Tagaytay," says Aragon.

Active, modern lifestyle

She says Alta Monte Leisure Suites are perfect for home buyers with active and modern lifestyles but who still prefer being close to nature.

The Alta Monte Leisure Suites make generous use of bay windows that allow more view of the outside with roofing imported from the United States and flooring materials imported from Europe.

According to Aragon, the design of the units maximizes the use of available light, which not only conserves energy but makes their occupants appreciate more the view outside as well as allow the crisp and cool mountain air to enter the house," explains Aragon.

"Also, we don't shortchange our home buyers so we only use the best materials. Besides, being a construction and marketing company, Don Tim have access to suppliers that offer the best yet inexpensive building materials," says Aragon.

She adds that just like the rest of the property offered at Alta Monte, units at the Leisure Suites can be acquired without reservation and down payment, interest-free and under flexible terms.

Enjoying village amenities

Residents of the Leisure Suites will also be able to enjoy the facilities of Alta Monte including its swimming pool with children's wading pool, multipurpose area, basketball and tennis courts, gym and sauna, which are all located in the half-hectare clubhouse complex.

Says Aragon: "Residents of Leisure Suites will also enjoy Alta Monte's other family-oriented recreational facilities and amenities such as amphitheater and children's playground."

She adds that Don Tim has also taken the extra mile of securing individual land titles or condominium certificate of titles for their buyers.

"This only shows that Don Tim is serious about its mission of providing only the best residential package in Tagaytay area," Aragon concludes.

Longest floating bridge

AMAZING STRUCTURES

THE GUINNESS World Records lists the Evergreen Point as the world's longest floating bridge. Spanning Lake Washington, the second largest natural lake in Washington state, the bridge has a floating section which measures 2.291 km.

Floating bridges are supported by floating pontoons with enough buoyancy to support a bridge and its load. A pontoon is a buoyant device made either of solid lightweight material or built as a watertight chamber. Closed cylinders such as pipes or barrels may be used as pontoons.

The Evergreen Point floating bridge is made up of 25 individual sections, one of which is a telescoping floating span which opens to allow large ships to pass through. The telescoping section also relieves stress on the bridge during strong windstorms.

The Evergreen Point floating bridge was completed in August 1963 at a total cost of $15 million. A four-lane toll bridge, it was the second bridge to span Lake Washington. The bridge became toll-free in 1979 and in 1988 was renamed Gov. Albert D. Rosellini Bridge, after Governor Rosellini who pushed for its construction. *Dianne M. Villafuerte*

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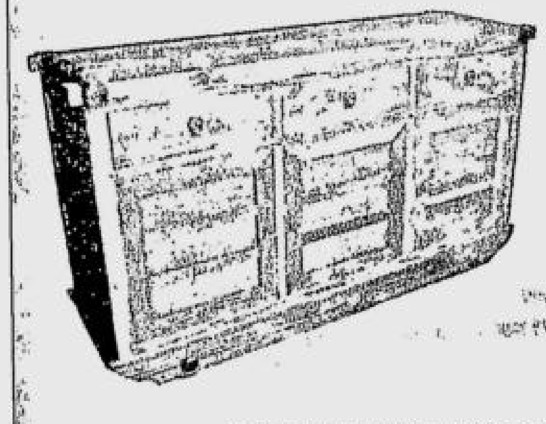

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Model units can be viewed at the site itself, Doña Soledad Avenue Extension, Bicutan, Parañaque City, or at Building A, SM Corporate Offices, 1000 Bay Boulevard, Pasay City. These model units serve as a showcase of how a well-planned interior design can maximize the amount of floor area, and furnish the unit for full visual impact. Planned and executed by well-known interior design outfit Atelier Almario, the model unit designs make use of various themes such as Japanese Zen and Asian Modern.

Whatever the unit owner's preference, there is an interior design plan that speaks eloquently of his taste and preference. In the same way that Chateau Elyseé speaks well of his lifestyle.

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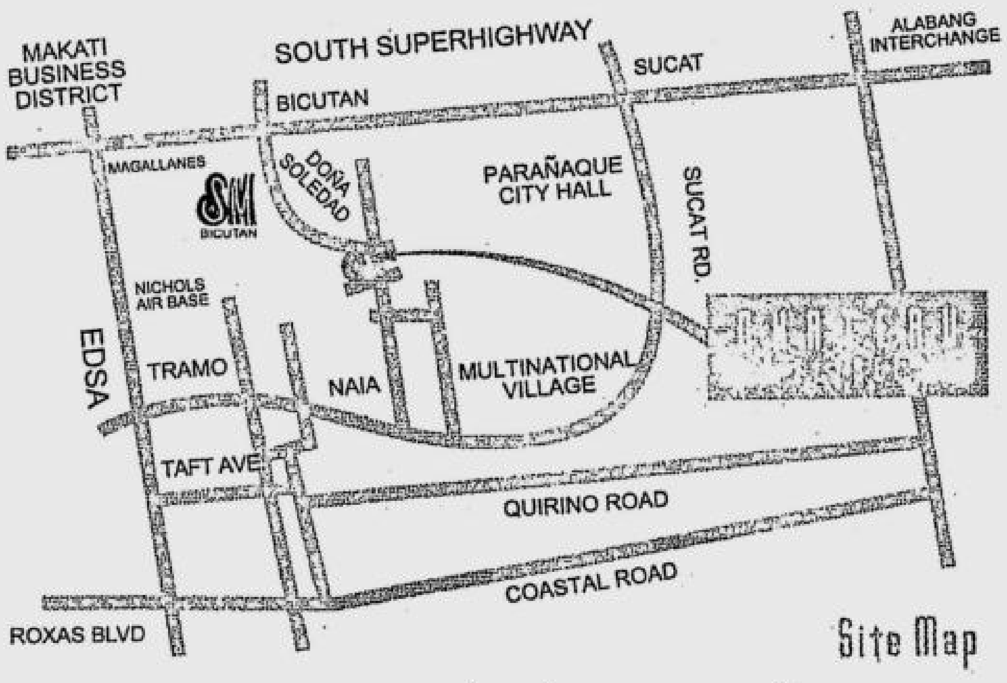

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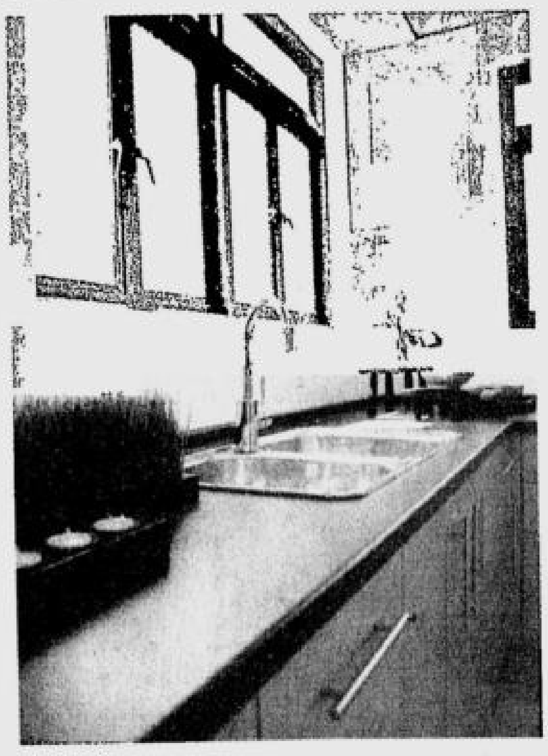

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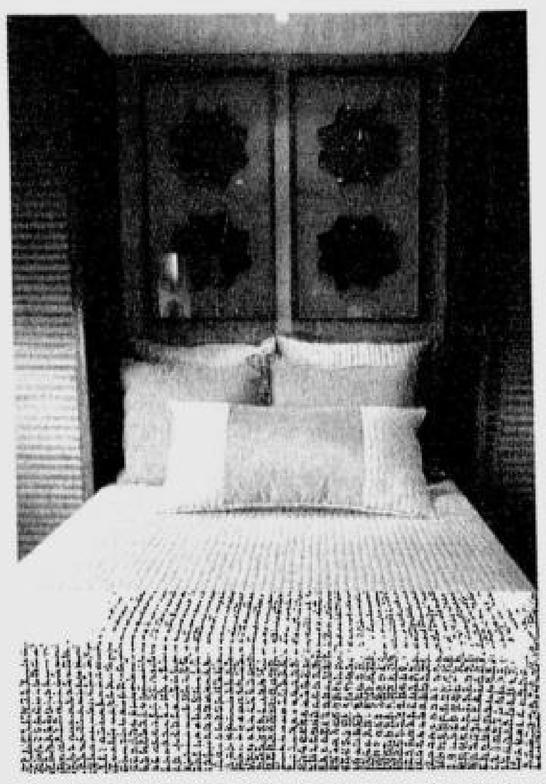

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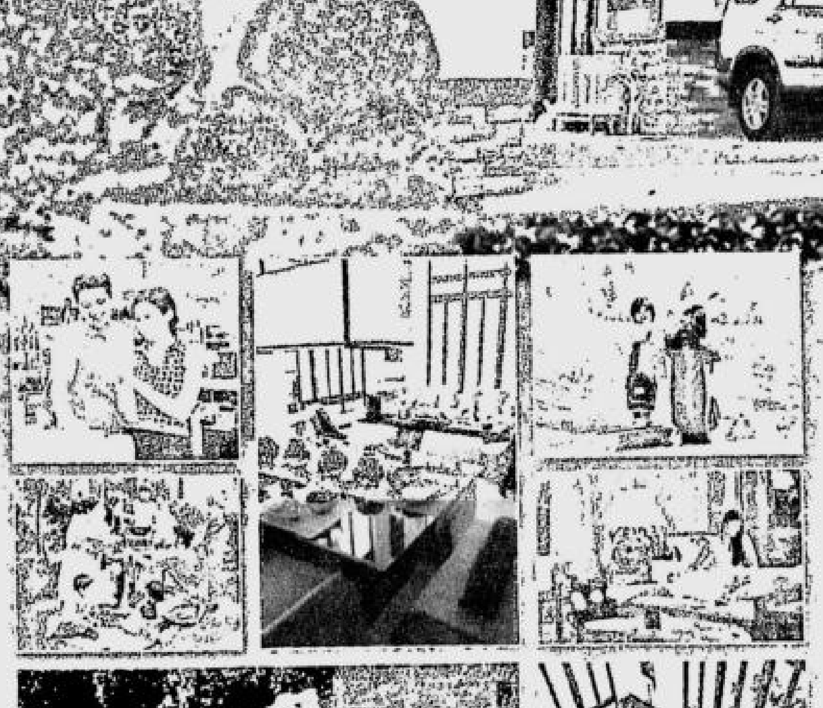

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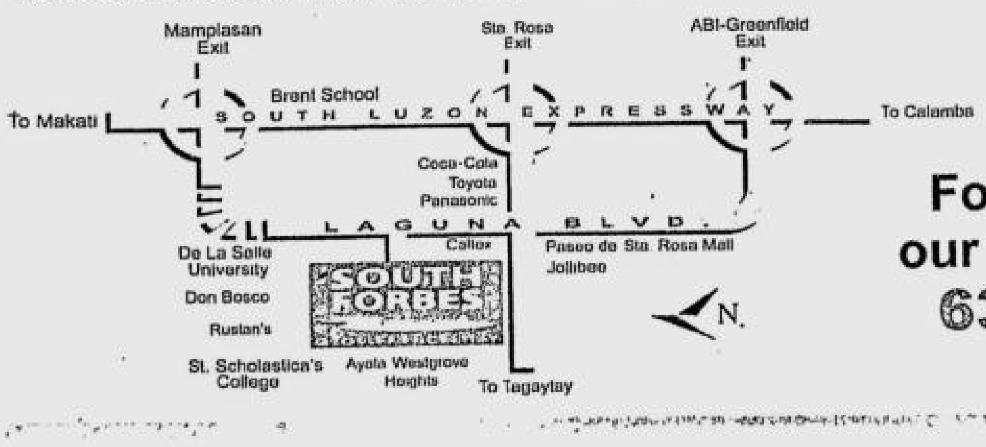

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Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Super! Countdown
11 days till Pinoy Blonde

blondage

Super! snapshot page E1
Sharon, KC & Frankie

Part one of Super!
Pinoy Blonde special page C2

Ten years of **Preview** page D3

War of the Words page D2

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: PONG IGNACIO
Clothing: PUEY QUINONES
Cover Stars: EPY and DOS QUIZON

Coping with diaper rash

You will change your baby's diaper more than 2,000 times this year.

During the first six months, many babies are prone to reddened bottoms as their delicate skin becomes exposed to irritating urine and stool. The rash is often aggravated by the friction of skin to the diaper.

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Vintage threads, thick dreadlocks and loads of fresh wit and talent: coming soon to a theater near you

Text by James Gabrillo
and Pepe Diokno
Photos by Pong Ignacio

THEIR hyperactive imaginations make chatting in a corner extraordinarily energizing. Epy and Boy2 Quizon are two guys who show zilch amounts of pretentiousness, and instead demonstrate a cargo of genuineness and candor.

Their distinctive humor is something to look out for. It's like a UFO—something unexpected, something with no specified path, and something that makes everyone pay attention.

Read on as Super! converses with the two main players of Peque Gallaga's new big screen jewel under Unitel Pictures, Pinoy Blonde. Catch it on July 13 and see if our guess is right… that this will be a big winner.

So, what's the movie about?

Epy: It's a movie about movies, basically. I play Conrad and Boy2 plays Andrew. We're aspiring filmmakers who've dropped out of UP Film, Mowelfund, Ricky Lee's screenwriting workshop—*lahat!* We're never given a chance to make our films.

How different is this film?

Boy2: Oh, dude, it's really diff. Really. Usually, when they promote films, they say, "Watch! It's something you've never seen before!" But when you go and see it—*wala naman*. From the trailer alone, you would see that, "Wow, *iba 'to*."

Epy: Here in the country, most of the time you'll see films *na yung* plot, hero-gets-girl—that's the basic type of story we digest. But this is not a plot-driven movie—it's more of a visual journey.

Boy2: It's about the battle between Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal. You got Brocka's sentimental style and Bernal *naman* is like, c'mon, give me something new!

Epy: Actually, the argument is like, Filipinos are sentimental, so you tell sentimental stories for people to enjoy. And the counter thesis, like Bernal's style *nga*, is to keep surprising people. But you know, if you think about it, this movie is kinda like Peque's way of teaching the audience.

How excited were you when you first read the script?

Boy2: P***!

Epy: Well, it started when I went to Malacañang for this Festival. Do you remember the time FPJ went to the Palace and he and GMA met? I was actually at their backs doing like that. *(Waves his hands)* Everytime they show it, I see myself waving there at the back. Anyway, Peque approaches me and says, "I have this project—but there's no budget—and I want you to do it!" Months after, I got the script and read it and I couldn't stop laughing. I called him up after, and said, "I wish I wrote it."

Tell us about the process of making the film.

Boy2: We did loads of workshops—it was fun. We all got together, the whole team, and Peque gave us all this baggage to toy with and to think about. It was very collaborative. Like, me, I saw my character, and I thought to myself, "How can I adapt it? How do I attack this character?"—'cause that's my job.

And we shot the film in 12 days! After the shoot, it took them about six months in post-production—putting all that animation, and everything.

Which words do you most overuse in the film?

Epy: I hate to say it, but I say P***** I** like, 30x in this film.

Boy2: *Tarantado.*

Tell us about your interests aside from acting.

Epy: I love creating. Whether it's a character, or a photo, or music, or a video. I'm all into that. I write and produce songs. There's a lot that I do that involves the imagination.

Boy2: Same. Well, I have a band, and we're coming out with an album.

Yeah, we saw you in Fete.

Boy2: Yeah, that was our first gig!

Besides the fact that Pinoy Blonde is a Peque Gallaga movie, why did you accept the part?

Boy2: It's Peque Gallaga, dude!

Epy: Yeah, and there's the script—and it's Unitel. I've seen some Unitel productions, and I'm like, "Woah." And when I was reading the script, I was saying, "This is the right film for me."

Let's talk about your role models.

Epy: My father. Just because of the things he has taught me—us—about life.

Boy2: Same—my grandfather.

What are your goals?

Epy: Mine is to have a family.

Tim Yap: Well, you do have one! *(Epy's girlfriend is due to give birth in September.)*

Epy: Exactly. I also want to live a simple life—but I dunno if that's the way I'm headed. That's the irony of it. This industry is anything but simple.

Boy2: I just want to go out and do things. And like Peque, I'm here to fight too. Like, after this, I'm not doing cheap, cheesy stuff anymore.

When we first went to watch a local movie premiere, we saw all the hordes of screaming fans, their funny posters and the way they treat the actors as their gods. What do you think of this whole *artista* mentality?

Epy: I think there's nothing wrong with *artista* mentality… it's part of the industry. When you're an *artista*, you become a public face. But see, when I go out, people look at me and think, *"Uy, ito ba yung killer—o yung bakla—o yung adik?"* I play different characters—I don't go the traditional way and put myself out there and smile.

Everyone should do that!

Epy: Well, it depends on one's career plans.

But the stars that last longer are those who choose their roles well.

Epy: Exactly.

People like to copy. What do you think of people who will bootleg this film?

Boy2: If they will copy—dude, it's good. It just spreads the revolution even faster.

The argument with cheesy films is that they reach out to the *lolas*, and *manangs*. Do you think films like these tend to alienate this market?

Boy2: Well, Pinoy Blonde was created for everyone to see. If for example, a *lola* doesn't want to see it because it's so different from what she's used to… it's the fault of producers who come up with cliché stories, and make movies just to make money. Like, because the majority only has access to two big TV stations—they don't have a choice but to eat the crap it delivers.

What do you think about what's happening in our country?

Epy: Politics, my god. Our family is never political. But as of this moment, you cannot not have an opinion. On both ends there are truths and lies. We're building a country of liars—that's something we cannot have, and must avoid.

What should be done?

Epy: If I am the captain of a ship, and there's a hole on the ship, I will address the hole—like, hey how am I gonna plug this? There's a big hole in the Pinoy boat that's not plugged. "He who steers my horse directs my steer."

Boy2: *(Laughs)*

What kind of roles do you wanna do in the future?

Epy: When I was a kid, I always wanted to play a killer—but I did that already. Have you guys seen the Lemony Snickett movie? Jim Carrey's character, that Count Olaf guy—god, I would love to do that.

Boy2: Well, I just wanna reach a wider market by experimenting with new things… it depends on the situation, actually.

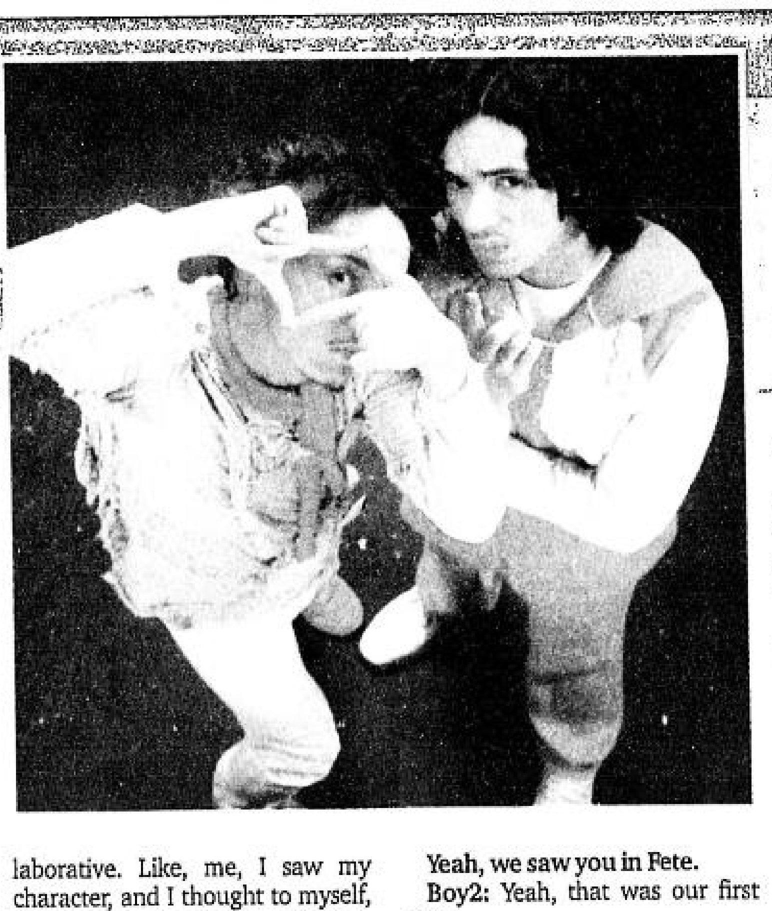
Do you impose limitations on yourselves as actors?

Epy: I've actually reached my limit. In "Boso," I showed my ass-crack. I went home after the shoot, and I was thinking—god, that was my limit. Shirtless… passionate kiss… touching boobs. But don't get me wrong—it was a beautiful film by Jon Red.

Boy2: I remember that! You went home and you had no idea what to do or what to think. *(Laughs)*

Epy Quizon

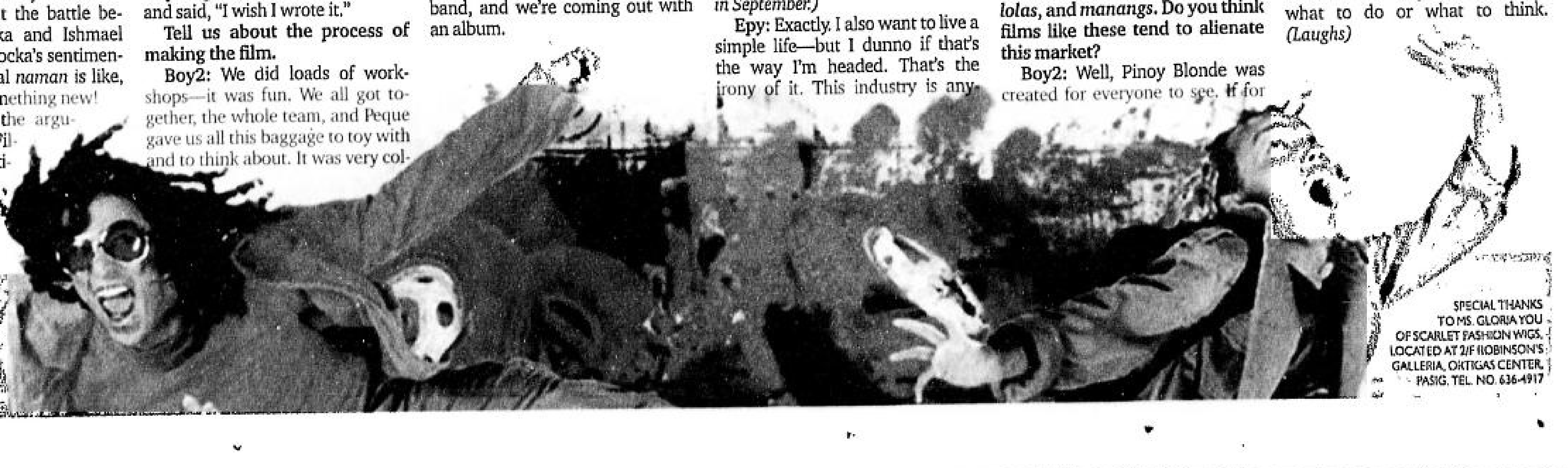
- an actor, photographer, part-time musician and director
- played oddball characters in "Radyo," "Utang ni Tatang" and "Boso"
- critically acclaimed for his breakthrough performance in "Markova: Comfort Gay"



Boy2 Quizon

- started out in the sitcom "Home Along Da Riles"
- became a household name when he played July, the Globe poster boy and now a mainstay in "Bubble Gang" and "Hanggang Kailan"
- fronts his reggae band Island Boy

They live together in real life. Now, Epi and nephew Boy2 embark on a wild psychedelic reel escapade in Pinoy Blonde



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What it takes to be blonde

By Tim Yap

ONE IS a Brocka fan, the other a Bernal diehard.

Such is the premise of a film about filmmaking, as the two lead characters played by Epy and Boy2 Quizon go through the plot arguing about scripts that they want to breathe life into. The story revolves around what goes through their minds, as the filmmaker behind it all, Peque Gallaga, takes us from reality to surreality with his comeback opus, Pinoy Blonde.

In this exclusive Super! shoot, we visit the Unitel Stu dios where Epy and Boy2 Quizon proudly show me the trailer. To say I was overwhelmed would be an understatement as every frame presented something that would surely give jaded movie goers a high.

I remember during one of our breaks in the office, INQUIRER editor Bill Formoso said, "During our time, we looked forward to watching Pinoy films, what happened now?" That question really made me think. Why are young people not as passionate about our own films?

We live in an era where Hollywood has taken over the world, making local production companies hesitant to go head to head with sure blockbusters. But with the recent box office successes of "Bikini Open" (vs Star Wars) and "Nasaan Ka Man" (vs Mr. and Mrs. Smith), it seems that the public is giving Pinoy movies another chance.

Why Pinoy Blonde? "Because it signifies our fixation for the West. Our culture is still very colonial," said Epy, the guy who inspired this writer to go blonde. Last year, I ran into him at a party and he told me about this film, which he was so excited about. Boy2 echoes the same sentiment. "I'm really proud of this film."

Pinoy Blonde blends satire, pop culture, fantasy, comedy, martial arts and animation—*halo-halo*, Filipino style. It also boasts of a soundtrack with music from the hottest local bands including Radioactive Sago Project, Kjwan, Bamboo, Kapatid, Sugarfree, Color It Red and Imago.

"*Hindi* typical *Pinoy* film," that's how the trailer ends. And we believe them.

Here in Super! we believe that we are standing on the verge of a renewed pop culture movement. From film, music, fashion and print media (except television, come to think of it), there seems to be a palpable energy that fuels a new breed of creativity. All we need to do is to support it, in order for it to become a full blown renaissance.

Watch Pinoy Blonde and be a part of the revolution.

NEVER BE AFRAID TO STAND OUT. Be a part of the new Pinoy movement, support our local films, music and fashion and be proud of our own. Now that's Super!

How Piolo likes his San Mig Coffee

MOST like it smooth, some strong, and others sweet and creamy. For **Piolo Pascual**, award-winning actor, singer, and endorser, coffee has become such part of his everyday routine that he simply cannot live without it. Piolo tries out all the coffee blends he can get his hands on, constantly seeking the unique blends that suits his taste.

It is this coffee routine that prompted San Miguel Corporation's interest to tap him as the first-ever endorser of **San Mig Coffee**, the recently launched instant 3-in-1 coffeemixes. For coffee drinkers like Piolo who like exploring different blends, San Mig Coffee offers three variants – **Mild, Original, and Strong** – to complement their every mood and taste.

But of course, it cannot be denied that Piolo's good looks and wholesome off-camera reputation contributed a lot to San Miguel's decision. He is one celebrity who truly demonstrates that great physical appearance alone is not enough to survive in the highly capricious local showbiz industry; talent, work ethic, and a good attitude towards others should also be part of the package.

For San Miguel, Piolo embodies what **San Mig Coffee** stands for – a young, dynamic, true-blooded Filipino who is full of potential. He says in previous interviews that he always takes care of his image because of the responsibility he has as an endorser. He recognizes that companies, and of course, his fans, rely on him to maintain his clean image. Piolo's singular charm, character, and broad appeal truly made him an obvious choice over other actors and models.

He also shared his thoughts on his latest endorsement:

How do you feel as San Mig Coffee's first ever endorser?

I'm so excited. I am honored of course, but more than that, it feels great because I really am a coffee drinker. It almost doesn't feel like work when I'm endorsing something I really like and drink.

How much of a coffee drinker are you?

I'm a regular coffee drinker. I love drinking and savoring a hot cup to start my day. When I am working for long hours on a shoot, I can go up to three or four cups! I remember a time when I tried to survive without coffee, and it was so hard (laughs), I got so groggy on the set!

Are you a Mild, Original, or Strong person (the three San Mig Coffee variants)?

I've tried the three variants, and it really depends on my mood. When I want to stay awake, I go for the Strong. When it's just an easy day and I am hanging out with my friends, I take the Original or even Mild. But I tried the three and loved 'em all.

How was your experience shooting the commercial?

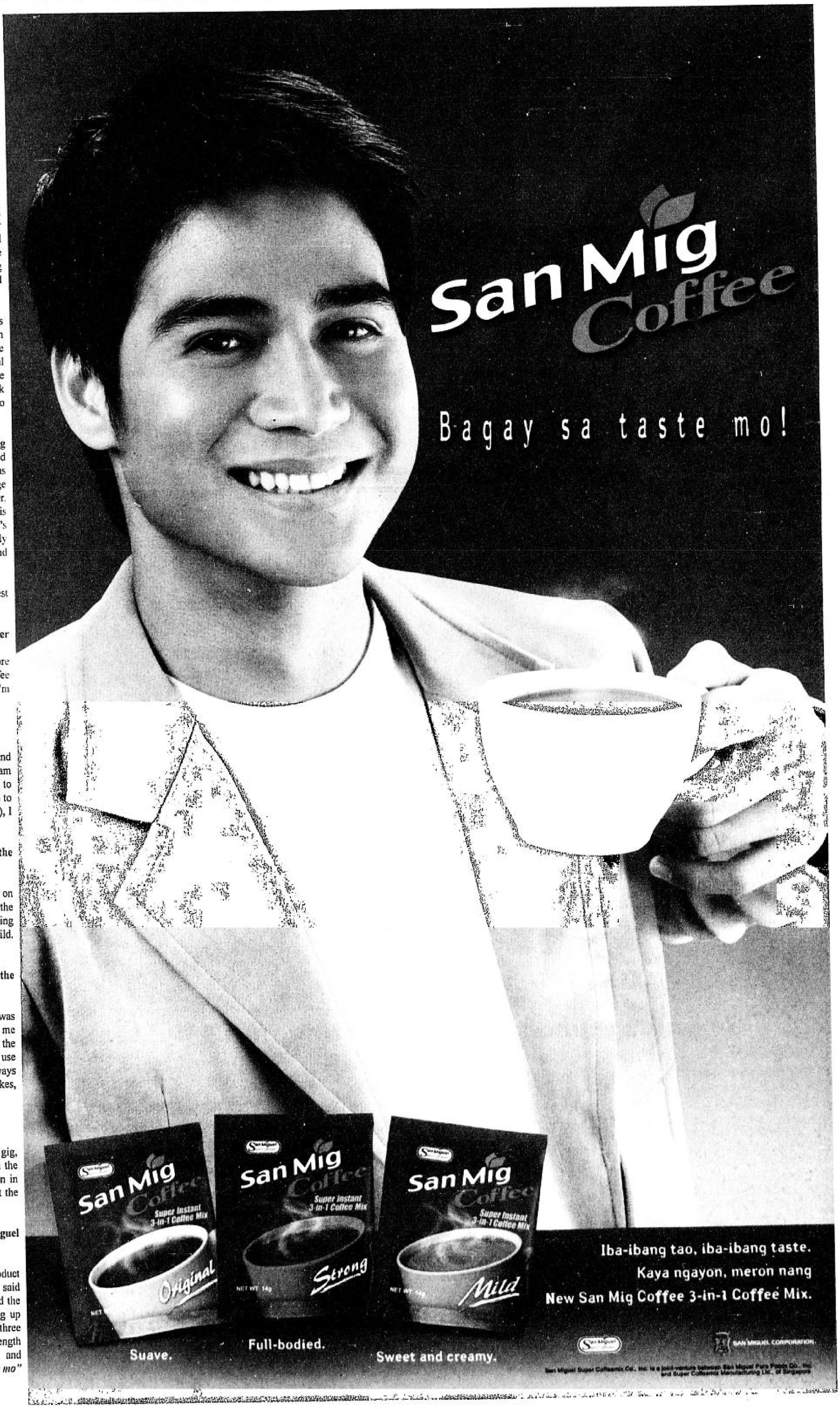
I had so much fun because everyone on the set was very nice and easy to work with. But what got me really excited was when the crew brought out the sports car and the motorbike we were going to use for the "Original" and "Strong" scenes. I have always loved riding exotic cars and especially motorbikes, but lately I haven't had time to pursue the hobby.

What are your plans after this endorsement?

Well, I've got a movie coming up, my hosting gig, and my regular shows. But the "Mild" scene in the yacht really made me want to travel or vacation in a place near the sea. Maybe I'll do it when I get the time.

Is this your first time to endorse a San Miguel brand?

Yes, this is my first time. I believe in the product and I am so excited to work with the company. I said to myself, this is San Miguel, so why not? And the company really took the harder path of coming up with something different, something unique – three different coffeemix blends based on the strength of coffee. Having choices is always good, and discovering a blend that's really *"bagay sa taste mo"* is even better.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style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

The new Gas station in town

By Tim Yap

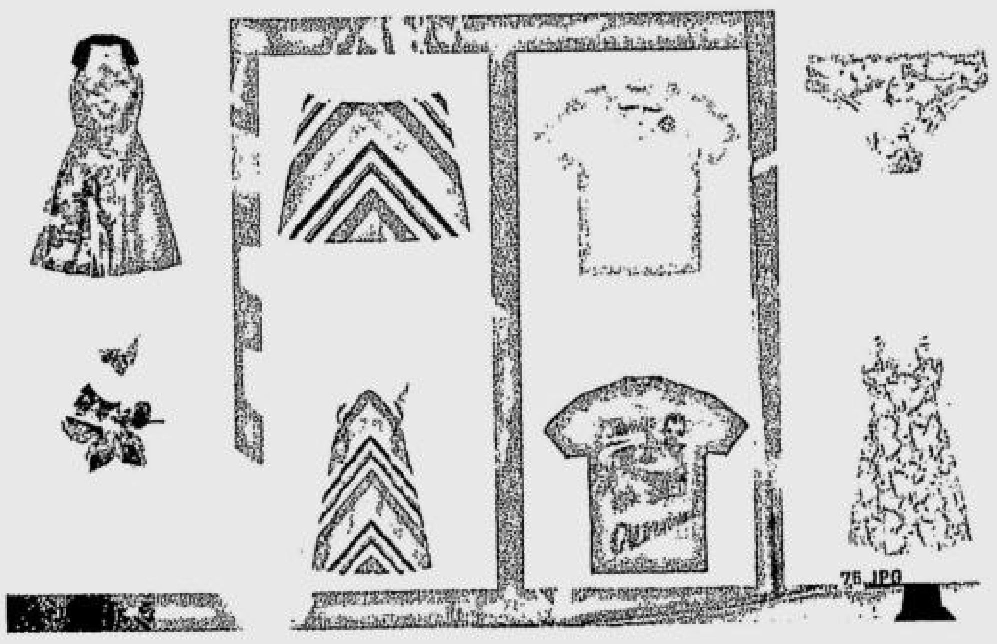
FOR THOSE in need of fashion fuel, a secret spot was the second floor of Greenbelt 4—there, style files found solace in hi-octane urban gear spelled with a capital G.

For a while, fuel fans in Makati missed their favorite stores, but—vroom, vroom! Italian Denim Maker Gas Jeans recently transferred to a new and better location at Greenbelt 3. Now, aside from their Gas branch at the Podium is this new Greenbelt location (across Adidas, and fronting Coffee Bean in Greenbelt).

Currently on the racks is the brand's newest hi speed collections for Spring/Summer 2005. Inspired by the 10-year period from 1955-65, a period of economic boom, with biker jackets and dark denims a staple for yet another exhilarating collection from Gas. My favorite is the midnight blue biker jacket with patches that was worn by Robbie Williams at the MTV Awards.

Brought in by the enterprising young men of Black Cat Inc., Mike Arcenas, Miguel Celdran, and Paolo Tuason, who also incidentally own the chain of local Nike, Benetton, and Sisely Stores, GAS clothing is a leading designer jean maker in Europe, and is now available in Manila.

So what are you waiting for? Gas up!



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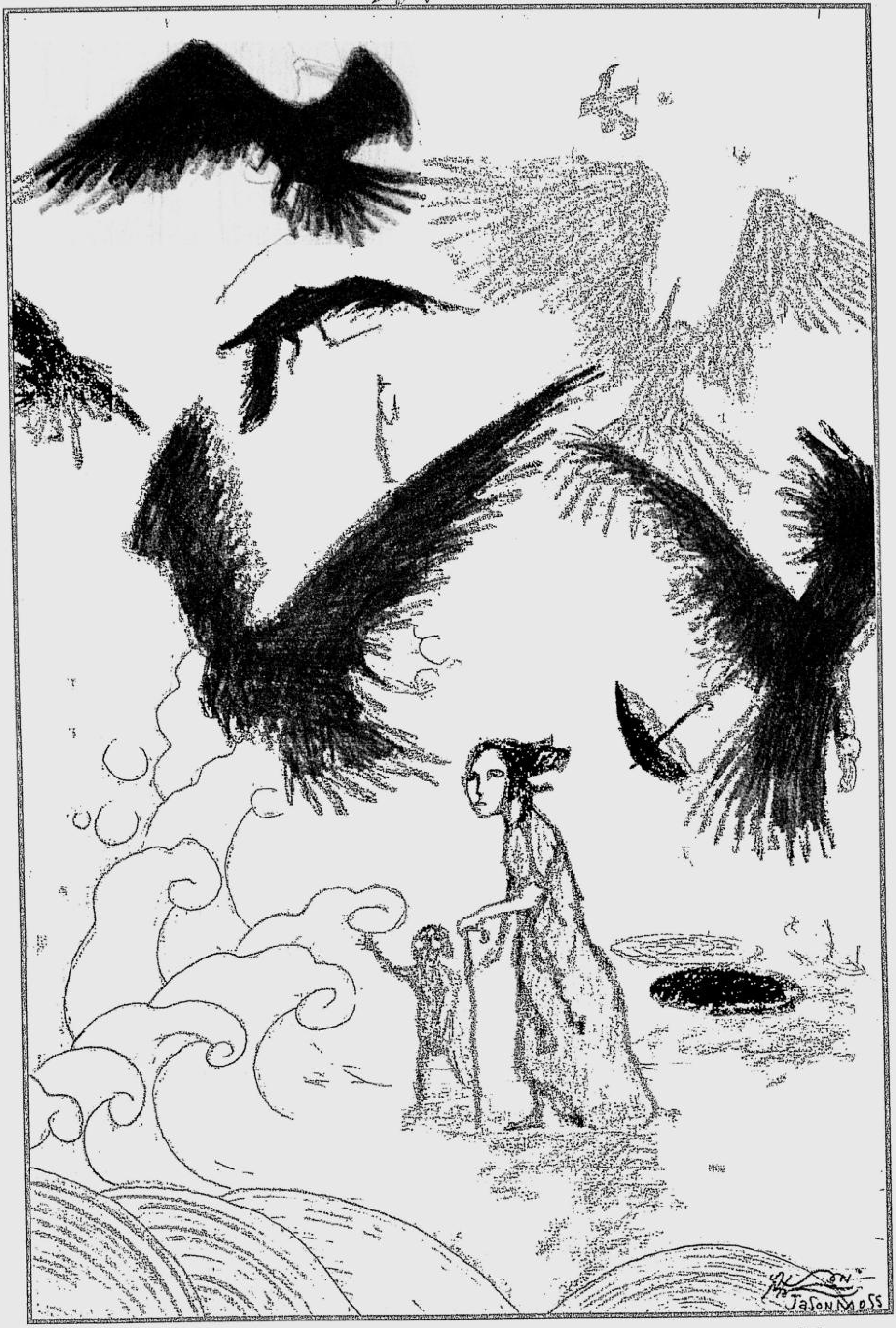


War of the Words

The vocabulary you use is essential to the kinds of energies that you attract or deflect in your life

By Katrina A. Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

ONE OF my favorite authors posed an interesting question in one of her books "How difficult have you made your life?" We often fill our days rationalizing, brooding or obsessing about things that may not really be beneficial to us in the long run anyway. We say things to ourselves that are not positive or uplifting, we make mountains out of molehills, we "sweat the small stuff" not knowing that our own anguish, frustrations or bitterness towards a situation (or person) has an exponential effect whether it is a direct or indirect interaction. When we're in a bad mood we tend to use harsher language towards the people around us, we blow up, and we sometimes say things to others that are cruel and hurtful. What we may not be aware of is what we scream or sarcastically snort out to either someone else or ourselves doesn't do ANYONE any good. But man, it's nice to just blame someone else for the crap going on sometimes right?

Vocabulary

I once read that the vocabulary you use is essential to the kinds of energies that you attract or deflect in your life. When you start your day off dreading work, dreading school, dreading your spouse, partner or family member then the way you deal with people is going to be affected. Think back to when you were younger, if your dad or mom came home in a grumpy mood… was it a good time to ask permission to go out? (off with your head!!) the reverse is when your parents are in a good mood and all of a sudden its like Christmas has come in early. Be mindful of the language you use when dealing with others, it is NOT your helpers fault that your boss has decided to drop a load of work on you right before a long weekend. Your driver did not cause the traffic on Edsa and it's not his fault either that whichever lane you decide to pick has become the slowest moving one. The salesgirl behind the counter did not cause that huge zit to appear on your nose and your little brother or sister is not to blame for your boyfriend dumping you (unless you're starring in a telenovela).

So, how difficult have you made your life? Understand that troubles are often self inflicted, we tend to read too much into ordinary situations. When we are too emotionally embroiled then we put too much meaning into a tiny, insignificant gesture. "Did you see/hear what he/ she/ did/ say?" you exclaim to nearby vultures. Honey, your arch rival sneezing in public does not a criminal make. Everytime you add a negative thought into your mental file on someone or yourself then you're just basically inviting more bad vibes in. Maybe if you could be more conscious of what you actually think and what comes out of your mouth you will invite a lot more positivity to enter. There is a formula in life, and that like begets like. If you surround yourself with garbage, you start to smell like it, same goes for your internal process. Overload your daily routine (mental, physical and spiritual) with enough crap and don't be surprised how your life will begin to reek of it.

Mean it

When was the last time you made an effort to do or say something nice (and mean it) every single day? Ok, we're not all Bree Van De Kamp every single moment, but it doesn't take a lot of effort to say to the person beside you how nice he or she looks today, or how much you liked what he or she did or said. Am going to stress though that you have to MEAN it, flattery without sincerity is just more BS. Deepak Chopra, in his book The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success explains how a daily output of sincerity and kindness goes a long, long way. And yes, eventually it finds its way back to you, and hopefully at a time when you need kindness and compassion the most. During days of stress and frustration, before you decide to vent on a poor, unsuspecting soul (read anyone with a heartbeat) take a really long deep breath and focus on something that gives you joy. When I say focus I mean LOOK or READ something that gives you peace. I'm not saying raid your fridge and stuff your face till kingdom come. Yes, watching a movie counts, listening to music counts, driving with lots of alcohol swishing inside you does NOT.

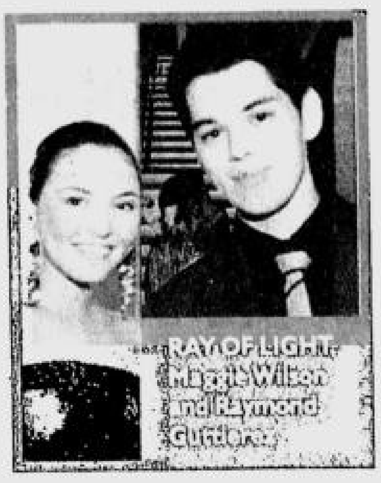
Try and make a habit of making someone else feel good on a daily basis, but be conscious of your intentions when complimenting someone. If you choose to flatter for the purpose of getting something in return, then eventually you will begin to question the sincerity of others towards you. It's not fun to live in paranoia or doubt. Perhaps it's time to change your battle cry. Good luck soldier.

FOR HIM MAGAZINE. David Nugent, Manny del Rosario, and Ipe Cruz

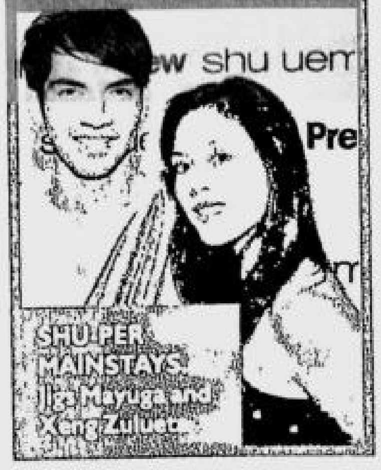
BENCH SUMMIT. John Pratts and Preview fashion editor Anne Bella

FRAMED. Rorie Carlos in Ivarluski Aseron

YOU'RE HIRED! Vicky Encarnacion and Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng



RAY OF LIGHT. Maggie Wilson and Raymond Gutierrez



SHU-PER MAINSTAYS. Jigs Mayuga and Xeng Zulueta

BLACK BOOK. Accessories designer Chat Fores with Lucy Fores

MTV TRES. Jamil Epperson's good finds, John Joe Joseph and Don Puno at the Shu Uemura-Smart Infinity beauty suite

Pushing Pinoy boundaries with Preview

From page D4

sories, *piña* and *jusi* cross breeding with contemporary silhouettes to interpret this new movement. Looks like Pinoy patriotism is getting a resuscitation in the fashion scene, and we say it's about time!

From being pampered to pieces at the makeshift Shu Uemura-Smart Infinity Beauty Suite at Cafeteria, to the visual showcase of Preview's best-dressed exhibit at Cuisine, live modern tribal percussions replete with high-flying Brazilian capoeiristas onstage at the Superclub, to Filipino breakfast cocktails at Cuisine as a fitting nightcap, Preview's 10th year MODI operandi certainly underscored intimacy in its most stylish sense.

PINOY BLONDE. Super-Tim in Rajo Laurel

ENCHANTING. Iza Calzado in Rajo Laurel

SHU TO KIEHL'S. [illegible]

NY MINUTE. Preview fashion associate Liz Uy

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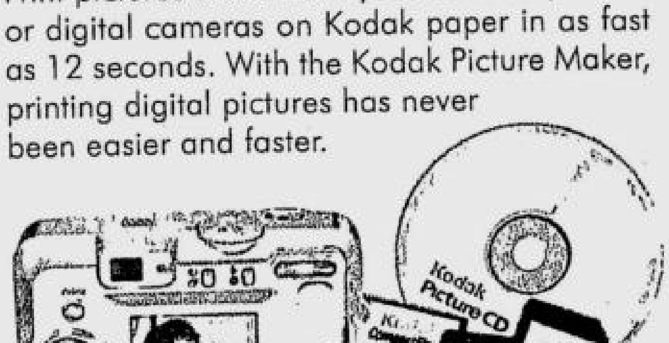

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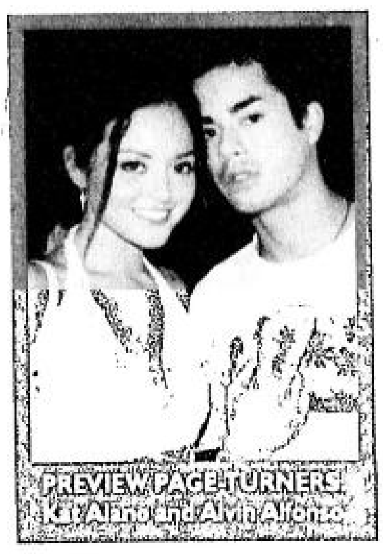
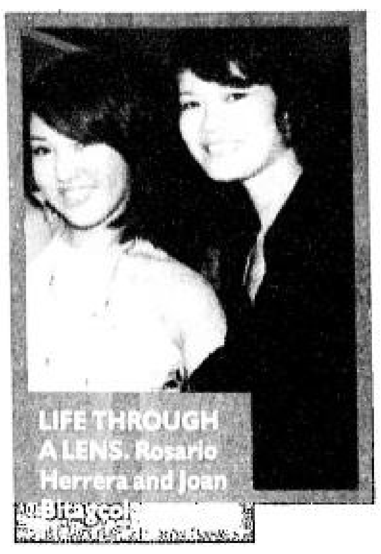
SUPER SUGO. Richard Guttierez, Georgina Wilson and Erik Cua

THE NEW STYLE TESTAMENT. Vince Uy and Paulina Sueco-Juan


PREVIEW PAGE-TURNERS. Kat Alano and Alvin Alfonso

CUTIES ON-AIR. Cutie del Mar and JM Rodriguez


LIFE THROUGH A LENS. Rosario Herrera and Joan Bitagcol

HOUSE OF STYLE. Rajo Laurel, Lalaine Carpo and Astrud Cristolo

Pushing Pinoy boundaries with Preview

By Tim Yap and Tals Diaz

INTIMACY is the new luxury, commands the country's style bible Preview magazine. So instead of throwing a giant, free-for-all bash at some cavernous venue, Preview decided to host an exclusive, by-invitation-only party to celebrate its 10th year as the country's leading chronicler of style. Thus emerged Manila's hip-notic young society at the gates of Embassy SuperClub, Cuisine and Cafeteria, fully decked out in their modern indigenous—or MODI ensembles. Say that again?

MODI is the latest catchphrase summing up the next chapter of Filipino style. Think butterfly sleeves, Muslim-inspired beadwork, handwoven fabric, capiz acces-

PUSHING/ D3

MTV SPOTTED. Preview cover girl Maike Evers

ROYALLY FLUSHED. Bianca King [illegible]

PREVIEW PRETTY. Nicole Hernandez at Embassy

PREVIEW PIONEER. Myrza Sison in MODI mode

GLOSS IT UP. Cheska Garcia [illegible]

COVER GIRL NO. 1. [illegible] de Leon-Gonzalez [illegible]

OK SA OLRAY? [illegible]

WE REALLY LOVE YOU, [illegible]

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SUPER! SNAPSHOTS

KC is at home with theater

MEGA FAMILY. KC Concepcion with Sharon Cuneta and sis Frankie Pangilinan

Text and photos by Tim Yap

SUPER! went backstage right after the Sunday matinee show of "Beauty and the Beast" to congratulate Super! columnist KC Concepcion, who plays the lead role of Belle.

I saw her hugging Mrs. Potts, superbly played by Pinky Marquez right after the five-minute standing ovation that the audience gave when KC came out for her curtain call.

Also in the audience was KC's family, led by Sen. Kiko Pangilinan and wife Sharon Cuneta with daughter Frankie, who was wearing a yellow gown, a mini replica of the gown worn by eldest sister KC for her final scene. Sharon, ever the proud mom, also went backstage during intermission to show support for her eldest daughter.

On a break from her studies in Paris, KC has found a new home in the theater. "I love the cast members—they are all so sweet. I miss them everytime we have a break. We're doing our best for the audiences."

POTTS SESSION. Pinky Marquez and Robie Zialcita

BE OUR GUESTS. Jonard Yanzon and Lawrence Martinez

INTIMIDATING DUO. Calvin Millado and Robbie Guevarra

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3) MAINTAIN WEIGHT
Weight maintenance refers to the act of maintaining weight at a healthy level over the long-term. It means developing stable and healthy eating habits. *Healthy Options* offers a variety of food and beverages that would help in weight maintenance.

Note: All information in this material is for educational or guidance purpose only. The information on this material should not be interpreted as a substitute for physician evaluation or treatment by a health care practitioner. You should always consult a physician in all matters relating to your health, and particularly in respect to any symptoms that may require diagnosis or medical attention.

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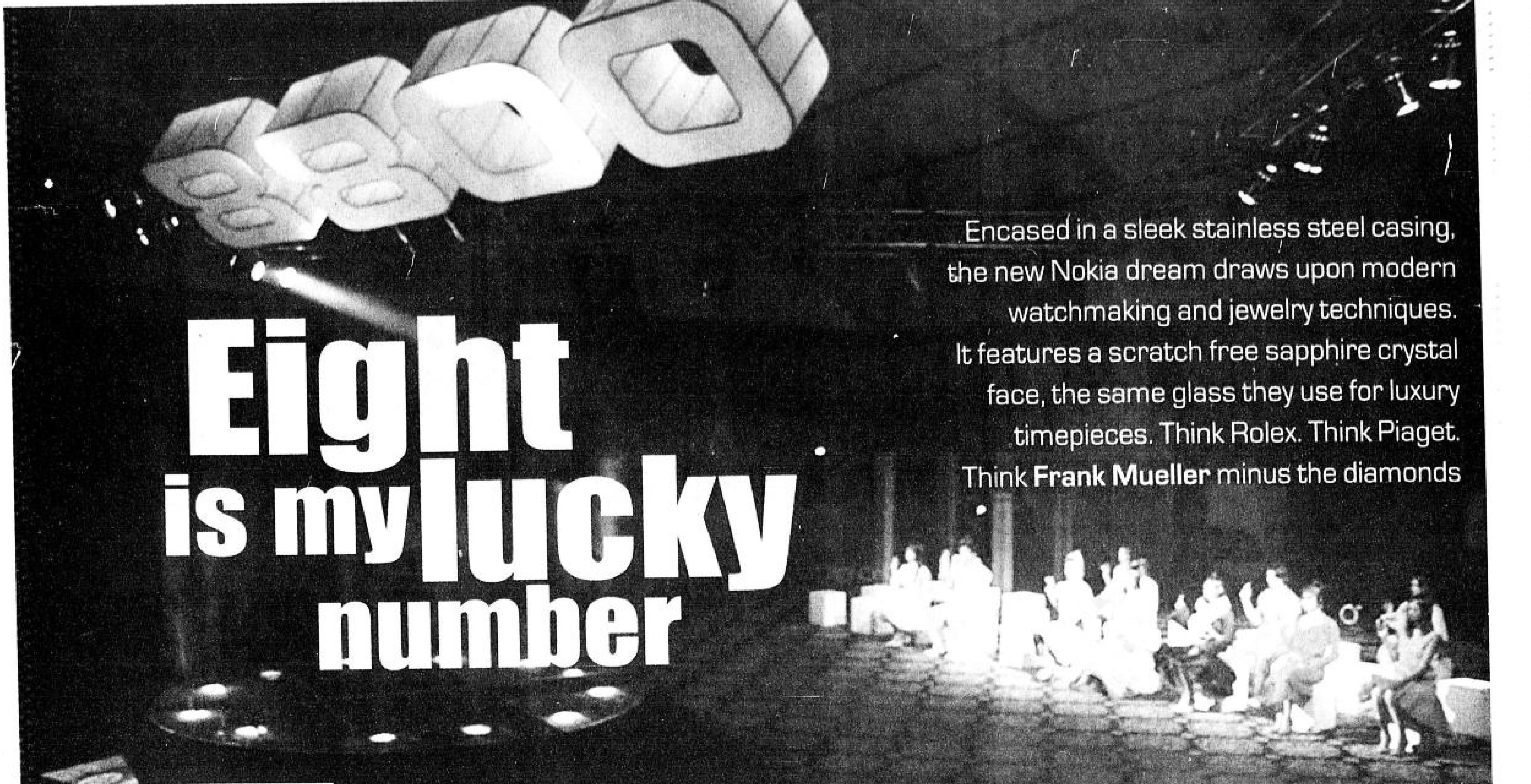


Eight is my lucky number

Encased in a sleek stainless steel casing, the new Nokia dream draws upon modern watchmaking and jewelry techniques. It features a scratch free sapphire crystal face, the same glass they use for luxury timepieces. Think Rolex. Think Piaget. Think **Frank Mueller** minus the diamonds

Tim Yap

I WOULD have gotten it just by the model number. Any sophisticated and feng shui sure cosmocrat worth their salt knows that in the numerology game, the number eight signifies money, money, money.

Aside from the obvious financial rewards that the number implies, the shape of the number eight signifies a balance—the fluidity of the strokes indicates a certain refinement. Infinity. Yin and Yang. Double the luck. You get the point.

So when mobile giant Nokia unleashed their latest creation, all of Manila's style setting A listers came out to see what the fuss was all about.

I stepped into the NBC Tent and I got transported into a different world—like I stepped into **Joe Black**'s mansion. Guests were transported into a circular balcony that embraced a black and silver arena where the emperor spoke. On center spotlight was **Parikshit Bhasin**, who spoke like he was at the core of a United Nations summit, announcing to the country's connoisseurs the arrival of their latest gem—the Nokia 8800.

I want that

Director **Ariel Lozada**'s trumpets sounded and one by one, style gladiators in **Ignacio Loyola** couture creations circled the fashion floor. It was a battlefield filled with chariots of high technology gadgets—the mobile mannequins held out the Nokia 8800 like torches in the night. It gleamed like diamonds in the dark. "I want that," I could hear everybody whisper silently.

Encased in a sleek stainless steel casing, the new Nokia dream draws upon modern watchmaking and jewelry techniques. It features a scratch free sapphire crystal face, the same glass they use for luxury timepieces. Think Rolex. Think Piaget. Think **Frank Mueller** minus the diamonds.

To top it all off, it features exclusive audio accompaniment, with ringtunes and alerts by award winning composer **Ryuichi Sakamoto**. If **Mozart** were alive today, I'm sure Nokia would have appointed him as royal ringtune composer. Chanteusse **Anna Fegi** seduced the crowd with her voice and **Elian Habayeb** Dj-ed the night away. Champagne flowed like water as chocolate truffles were handed out to the sleek set.

8800—the number eight never looked this good.

THE EMPEROR. Nokia Country General Manager Parikshit Bhasin

THE WOMEN BEHIND IT. Jini Bhasin with Nokia's Luane Erni

GLITZ BIZ A LISTER. Angel Aquino at the 8800 launch

SLEEK TRIO. Vanessa Fernando, Josh Tiu and Martin Wisniewski

FANTASTIC FOUR. Mariko Jacinto, Kate Torralba, Arnold Martinez and Angelique Villaraza

STAINLESS STEEL BEAUTY. Models Raphael Kieffer and Crizenda Cecilio in Ignacio Loyola couture

FEAST FOR THE SENSES. Gutsy Tuason, Amanda Griffin and Annabelle Co

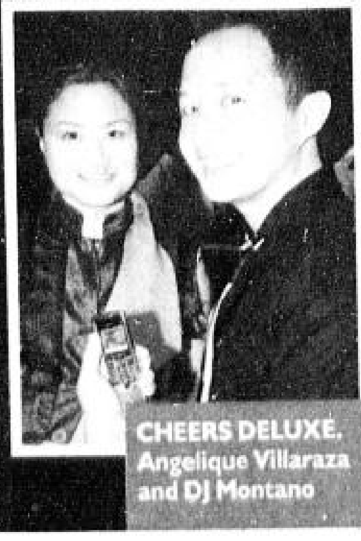
SUPER! TRIO. Kara Tolentino, Miguel Rosales and Tim Yap

QUALITY CONNOISSEUR. Mike Toledo during cocktails

SPECTACULAR, SPECTACULAR. Anna and Alexel Villaraza, Happy David and Audee Villaraza

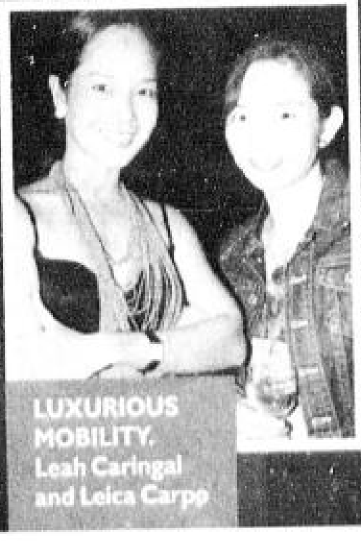
CHEESE PLEASE. Cheese Ledesma and Joel Ong

STYLE STATEMENT. Kate Torralba and Luane Erni



CHEERS DELUXE. Angelique Villaraza and DJ Montano

PREMIUM PAIR. Raymond Rufino and Anna Palabyab



LUXURIOUS MOBILITY. Leah Caringal and Leica Carpo

LUXURY TIME. Akiko Thompson admires the 8800's sveltness

How to turn your quarter-life crisis into a mid-youth party

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

SO YOU'RE done with college, the greatest six and a half years of your life. Like, bravo!

On the one hand, you could now be hard at work (or hardly working) at that McJob, barely earning enough to pay for gas for the ride the parentals gave you on your 21st birthday and a couple obligatory dinner-movie dates with your boo. Yeah, you've racked up quite a bill on your starter Mastercard—damn you camera/phone/MP3 player/ "Inspector Gadget"-inspired thingamajig!—but you figure you can pay up, since you plan to live on instant ramen and prayers until you're 42.

Then again, you may have just shot a slightly hostile but eloquent "Go lick a monkey's scrotum! I quit!" e-mail to your boss, whose sole mission in life, it seemed, was to micromanage newbies and make them age prematurely. You'd sooner impale yourself on a rusty spike than go back to pushing hypothetical pencils in the corporate crapshoot so you're euphemistically "freelancing" at the mo. You tell yourself you're taking five—or five hundred—from this career hopscotch to finally give a warm, cinematic embrace to the question, "Dude, where's your life?"

Hence, the timing of this article is a thing of beauty. See, you're just going through a QLC, a quarter-life crisis. Yay? Hmmm. Let's see.

10 + 10 + 5 = Duh!

A recent catchall term, a quarter-life crisis refers to that time immediately following adolescence when 24- to 30-year-olds (give or take) reexamine everything they've done en route to becoming responsible, productive and, sadly, boring adults. Several pop psychology pundits have even called it the "Diet Pepsi Phase"—a kind of neither-here-nor-there crossroads—where one suddenly realizes the "Real World" is not just a dated reality show on MTV, but an actual environment he or she has to enter, uhm, pronto.

It's during this so-called mid-youth muddle when a person, like it or not, ponders about his or her path and purpose in life and possibly begins hobbies like writing haiku, playing with old G.I. Joes, or tapping underage ass. In this moment of quiet (and sometimes, alcohol-aided) soul-searching, a quarter-lifer may unexpectedly pine for the comforts of high school and/or college as the problems of finding a date for the prom and/or turbo-cramming for a Medieval History final seem so trivial compared to earning a living and/or—heaven forbid—ball-and-chaining with a wife/husband. Yikes.

Long-forgotten to-do lists are dug up, dusted off and dissected, often with less-than-stellar results. Most quarter-lifers feel that what they've done is not even close to what they thought they would have accomplished by this time. (So much for those dreams involving a Victoria's Secret model and a pool of grape Jell-O when you were 18, eh?)

Defining one's self becomes even trickier and scarier when, somehow, it hits that a number of choices you've made—your choice of major, your cheesy Marvin the Martian tattoo, that hot chick you did body shots with during winter break in Belize who turned out to be a dude—are all crap. And that you're doing donuts career-wise. And that maybe you have to start all over again. And that hot chick you did body shots with during winter break in Belize, who turned out to be a dude, gave you herpes. Bastard! I just put the last one to see if you're still with me. Ha.

My own QLC

As I write this, 50 Cent's "Just A Lil Bit" is still on repeat mode in my CD changer, driving my entire family, including my dog Max, totally batty. To loosely quote my extremely patient mom, my room looks like "the Virgin Megastore and Fred Segal threw up all over it," with CDs, magazines, shoes and gourmet denim hurled about. Point? My creatively messy room sums up the oxymoronic state of my twentyeverything mind—organized chaos.

In fact, I don't think I'm even feeling it as much as I thought I would. (Either I'm extremely lucky or the gale-force winds of this quarter-life storm haven't hit land yet.) Before you call me a prick, however, I will preface this by admitting that, maybe like you, I also went through several QLC symptoms of late:

- Alluding to "Dexter's Laboratory" ("Omelette du fromage!!!") and other more retro cartoons of my childhood, like "Care Bears" and "The Simpsons."
- Hanging out with my 11-year-old cousin (hey, she looks 15) in order to feel younger only to end up feeling creepy.
- Mouthing off lines from "American Pie," "Cruel Intentions," and "Varsity Blues" while swimming in a sea of Cool Ranch Doritos.
- Reminiscing about recess when "Gin and Juice" by Snoop Dogg or "This Is How We Do It" by Montell Jordan—good God, it's Chocolate Ice!—blast from the speakers.

Or not. Pardon me. It's past my bedtime.

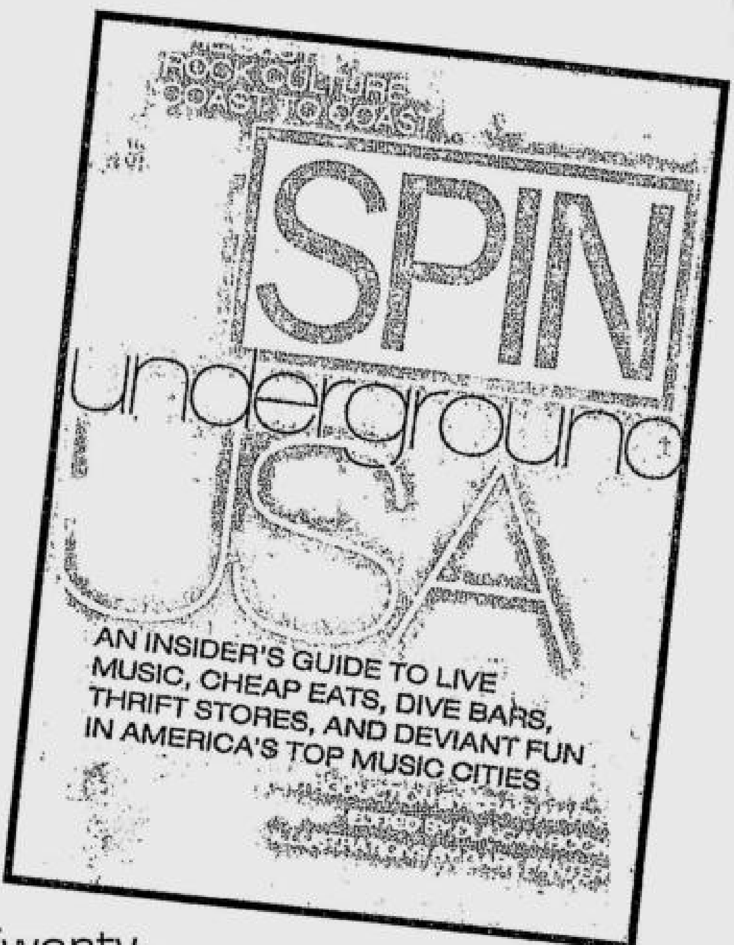
Focus on the present

Anyway, what I've learned from this mini-meltdown (or lack thereof) is that finding yourself is a genuinely normal part of any person's life, whether you're 25 or whatever. The most important fact to keep in mind, though, is that you can weather a quarter-life crisis—or any major life predicament, for that matter—without psychiatric help or excessive drinking. How? By simply focusing on the present. Don't dwell too much on the past and stop obsessing about the future. Live in the here and now because essentially, when you step back and look at the big picture, it's all that matters.

When you apply this to your current quarter-century freak-out and its gamma rays of uncertainty, remember that you don't have to jump through hoops because society tells you so. It's your life after all and it's too short—sob!—to live by other people's stupid ass rules.

> Twenty-five-year-olds! Existential angst! Rock and roll!

HANDS IN THE IZZAIR! Doesn't 25 feel like this sometimes?



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DADAISM. Inspired by anachronistic travel, I plan to use this circa '97 guidebook soon.

Crisis? What crisis?

AS A MEMBER of that luckiest of breeds, the twentysomething youth, you gotta ch-ch-check yourself before you wreck yourself. Not only should you face this quarter-life crisis head-on. You must call it your bitch, hump it, then throw the most badass party in its honor. Embracing change and living for today is the only way for you to move on to the next phase of your life while vibrating on a high and angst-free frequency. Here's five ways how.

1. **Work that body.** Neutralize all the worry by hitting the gym. Pro: If you do manage to build a rad body, you'll look hot and therefore, you can go through life without ever having to work for anything. No career-related problems, no quarter-life crisis! Whee! Con: You'll lose your ability to think logically and that comes in handy when you're in your 40s and flabby. Boo!

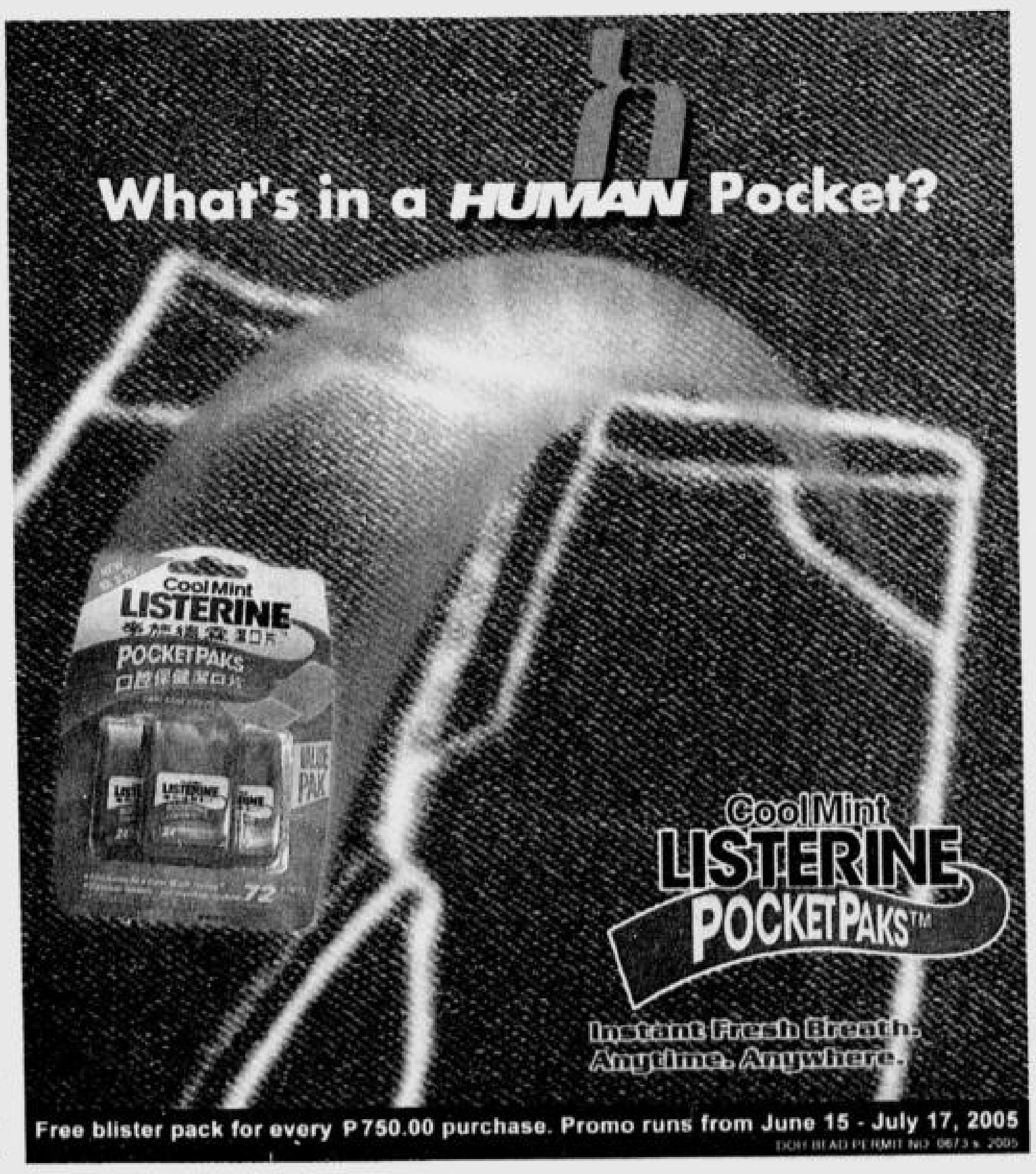
2. **Get lost.** Wait, you already are. What I mean is travel. With surrealism as its main influence, Dada, or experimental travel, is proving to cure the ennui of our been-there, done-that generation. The approach is quirky and absurd and requires neither bravery nor buckets of cash. Some of which include: Anachronistic travel, using only obsolete (not the latest) guide books; Counter-travel, which requires you take pictures with your back turned to the camera at landmarks such as the Taj Mahal or Big Ben; and Monopoly, you arrive in a city, buy the local version of the game and visit the streets by throwing the dice and following the rules. Inspiring, isn't it?

   Since once-exotic destinations such as Kathmandu or Morocco are now accessible to any teenager with a passport, young people have upped the ante and unpackaged their holidays. With serendipitous Dada travel, where you go—like, Who-cares-a-stan?—is less important than your perception of where you go.

3. **Go on several internships.** Whether you join an archaeological dig in France or spend your summer at a local publishing company, interning is a great way to beef up your résumé, establish contacts and see where your job and life skills lie—all without committing to a contract and an evil boss.

4. **Keep an old-school journal.** Blogs are fine but you can't smell or touch them. Writing this column and sporadic blogging have kept me sane. But sticking clothing tags, thank-you notes and other random mementos in a thick spiral notebook have sustained my idealism.

5. **Don't stop discovering. Read.** Read stuff without pictures. Listen to fresh music. Meet brand new people. Perhaps, try to pick them up. I guarantee, no matter how intimidating tomorrow seems, you'll live through this quarter-life crisis, laugh about it, and yup, become a better person. Keep that head up. Stay Super!



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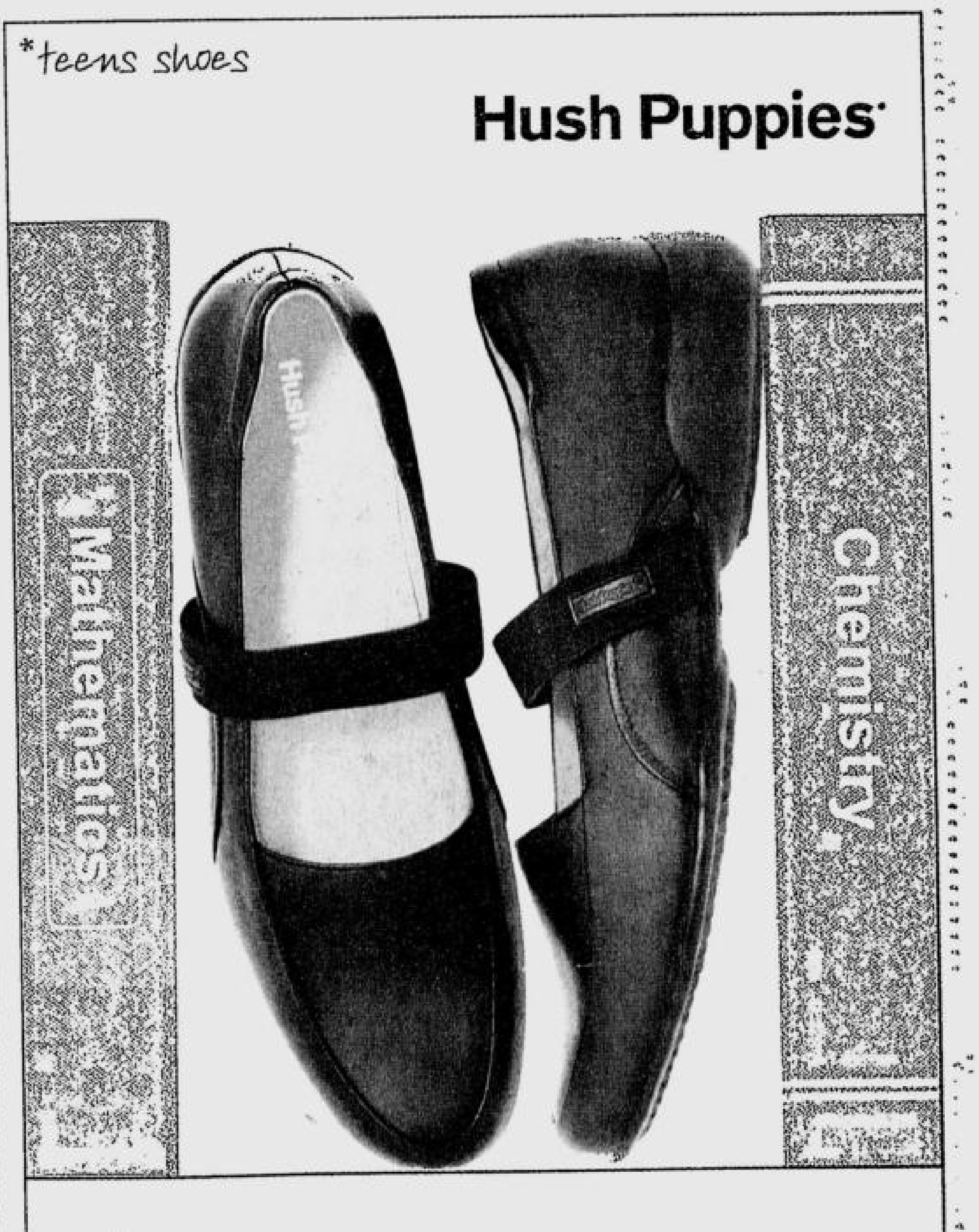

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